

World War II Veterans  
honored in ceremony.  
See A3 for full article.

See the B section  
for the Spring  
Sports Preview

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# NW MISSOURIAN

CONVERGING CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

THURSDAY  
Feb. 22, 2007  
V81 / N21

www.nwmissourianews.com

## WEEKENDWEATHER

**FRIDAY**  
HI 53  
LO 46

**SATURDAY**  
HI 50  
LO 32

**SUNDAY**  
HI 41  
LO 25

## PAC DAY

All students in the Department of Mass Communication are welcome to attend the Professional Advisory Committee Friday, March 9. Chances to meet with professionals will take place from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

## AUTHOR TO SPEAK

Norah Vincent, author of "The Self-Made Man," will speak as part of the Distinguished Lecturer Series 8 p.m., Monday, March 12, in the Union.

## CHALLENGE U

Applications are still being accepted for Challenge U University, a program encouraging students to finish high school and move on to college.

Eleven youth leader positions are open for the four Challenge U sessions to be held June 6 and June 23 on the Northwest campus.

Paper copies of completed applications and recommendations to Human Resources, Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, Mo., 64468.

## TODAY

Career Services Interview Day.

Dale Pereira ceramics exhibit closes.

## SATURDAY

Women's and men's basketball vs. Fort Hays State, Bearcat Arena.

Wind symphony/symphonic band concert, 7 p.m., Charles Johnson Theater.

## MONDAY

Aristotle Georgides Sculpture Exhibit opens lecture and reception, 7 p.m., 244 Fine Arts Building.

## TUESDAY

Last date to add or enroll in second-block course.

SAC lecture: Judy Shepard, 7:30 p.m., Charles Johnson Theater.

## IT'S BACK!

Heartland View is up and running. Visit the online travel magazine at Heartlandview.com

Visit the web for:

The results of the men's and women's basketball games. Jump online next week to see video of the Northwest's annual drag show.

## —INTERNET GAMING

# WAR OF THE WORLDS

## World of Warcraft is taking control of Internet gaming and its players

By Tara Adkins  
Features Editor

Cavemen, elves, and the undead dance on the walls of dark, lit rooms as the glow of the computer screen highlights their faces.

With headset and microphones glued to their heads, the guild gathers for its nightly meeting.

It's 7 p.m. The raid has begun.

The role-playing computer game, World of Warcraft, has wedged itself into the minds of millions of players across the globe.

The popular game has created an obsession for the most players, for the world they've stepped into is a more real world of Warcraft.

World of Warcraft is a game I've ever played, and I've never played a game like it before. It's a game that's taken me to a whole new level of gaming. I've never played a game like it before. It's a game that's taken me to a whole new level of gaming. I've never played a game like it before. It's a game that's taken me to a whole new level of gaming.

At the time, it was a \$20,000-a-month subscription fee. World of Warcraft costs more than anything else.

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money. Northwest sophomore Alexander Lobe said, who's played the game for two years, lobe claims his friend became fixated with the game that he lost his scholarship, dropped out of college and sold his car to devote all his time to the game.

He just vegges in his basement. He lost everything because of the game. It's sick," lobe said. "I hope to never let it get that far out of control."

Despite the bags under their eyes, lobe and his friends have once continued their marathon of "Warcraft" into the early hours of dawn.

As lobe delves into his art projects, then, he plots to see if he can get into the world of Warcraft. "I'm not going to stop playing Warcraft until I can get into the world of Warcraft," lobe said.

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## —UNIVERSITY NEWS

# Graduate classes to relocate

## Northwest graduate classes in St. Joseph looking for new home

By Kristin Summers  
University Editor

Northwest students traveling to Missouri Western State University for graduate classes will eventually have to drive farther into the St. Joseph area.

Northwest will no longer offer graduate courses on Missouri Western's campus, according to Ray Courter, vice president of finance and support services.

A reason why graduate classes are being relocated is due to Missouri Western requesting an extra \$2,000 for Northwest to have instructional television (ITV) courses on their campus, Courter said.

There are 108 Northwest students enrolled in the graduate courses offered at Missouri Western, Theresa Immel, graduate records specialist, said.

Northwest President Dean Hubbard said graduate classes have been offered at Missouri Western before he took office here 22 years ago.

The extra \$2,000 is excessive, Courter said. Missouri Western hasn't requested Northwest find a new location for its courses, Hubbard said.

Northwest pays roughly \$10,000 to have the graduate courses offered on Missouri Western's campus each

year, Courter said.

Roughly another \$20,000 goes toward Northwest employed faculty who teach on Missouri Western's campus, Courter said.

Several locations throughout St. Joseph have been considered, including downtown and the Belt Highway, but an exact location has not been determined yet, Hubbard said.

Although a location hasn't been set yet, the building will be somewhat similar to the Northwest's Kansas City Center, Courter said.

Once a location is chosen, Courter said it will be funded by the city and a private developer with Northwest paying a usage fee similar to the fee Northwest's pays to hold classes at Missouri Western.

Though the graduate classes are being relocated, cost to operate the courses will not cost more than they did being offered at Missouri Western, Hubbard said.

Along with Northwest graduate courses being relocated, Missouri Western plans to add graduate courses in the fall. Missouri Western's new graduate courses and Northwest's will not be competitive since both universities offer different graduate programs, Hubbard said.

As of press time, no date or location was set for the relocation.

# Sept. 11 survivor to speak at Northwest

By Kristin Summers  
University Editor

Blind his entire life, on Sept. 11, 2001, Michael Hingson and his guide dog, Roselle, were able to find their way through the chaos and out of the World Trade Center after the first plane struck.

Working as a manager for a computer company, Hingson was in his office in suite 7827 on the 78th floor when the plane hit, according to Eeoc.gov.

Hingson is Northwest's spring trimester Ploghoft lecturer. The Ploghoft lecture series is funded by alumnus Milton Ploghoft and his wife Zella Ploghoft, an alumna of the Horace Mann Laboratory School.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks



# CAMPUSBRIEFS

## Northwest Forensic Team wins state competition

Northwest's Forensic Team won the state championship in individual events at a state tournament at William Jewell College last Saturday and Sunday. The team competed in public speaking. The last time the team won the championship was 1998.

## 8th Annual Drag Show set for this Friday

Common Ground will sponsor 8th annual Drag Show which will be at 6:30 p.m., Friday in the J. W. Student Union Ballroom. The show will be hosted this year by Bianca Bliss. This year's theme is the "Lost girls of Never-Neverland." Admission is \$5 or \$4 with a canned item. Donations go to the Ministry Center with proceeds going to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and Children's Mercy Hospital.

## St. Jude's "Up 'til Dawn" hosts garage sale

"Up 'til Dawn," which raising money for St. Jude Children's Hospital, will host a garage sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Maryville United Methodist Church. Donations for the garage sale can be taken to the Campus Activities Office. "Up 'til Dawn" also has eight executive positions open. Applications can be picked up in the Campus Activities Office. Deadline is Friday, March 2. For more information about the garage sale or applications contact Veronica Petree at s256212@nwmissouri.edu.

## Northwest in the Top 5 in recycling contest

Northwest is ranked fourth out of 60 schools competing in RecycleMania, an annual recycling and waste reduction competition. At the end of the first week, Northwest was ranked second overall. Northwest is competing in two categories: Per Capita Classic and Waste Minimization. The 10-week competition ends Saturday, April 7. Weekly standings are updated every Friday, to see the weekly results go Recyclemania.org/results.

## Gay rights advocate to speak on campus

By Andrea James  
Chief Reporter

On Oct. 7, 1998, 21-year-old Matthew Shepard was lured out of a Wyoming bar by two men who claimed they were gay. Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson took Shepard to an isolated area outside Laramie, Wyo., tied him to a fence, ruthlessly beat him and left him to die.

Eighteen hours later, a cyclist found Shepard still tied to the fence and unconscious. Shepard never woke up after his beating and died at Poudre Valley Hospital a few days later on Oct. 12, 1998. Doctors found that Shepard suffered repeated blows to the head and as well as an injury to his brain stem, which would have controlled his vital signs.

Gay rights activist Judy Shepard will speak at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, in the Charles Johnson Theater, in hopes of preventing events like this from happening again.

The presentation is part of the lecture series, Campus Activities Director Kristen Alley said. They received information about possible issues that would be important to students.

"Someone mentioned Shepard's name and we thought that she is a great speaker and this is a great issue for the students to be aware of," Alley said.

Shepard began to tour around the country shortly after the murder of her son, Matthew Shepard, according to Matthewshepard.org.

Her son was a victim of an anti-gay hate crime, and she is using her experience to speak with others on how to make the world a better place. She has spoken with over 1 million people and has challenged them to "erase the hate."

Not only is Shepard an advocate of gay rights, she promotes respect for others and dignity as well. Alley said.

Shepard also discusses the effects of hate crimes on the world and attempts to promote diversity and tolerance.

Shepard will begin her presentation with a video, immediately followed by a discussion of hate language and hate crimes, she said.

"She will share a message through the lens of a mother who lost a son because of a hate crime. She has a lot to teach us," Alley said.

Judy and Dennis Shepard created the Matthew Shepard Foundation shortly after his death to inform others about social justice, diversity awareness, and equality for gay, lesbian and bisexual people.

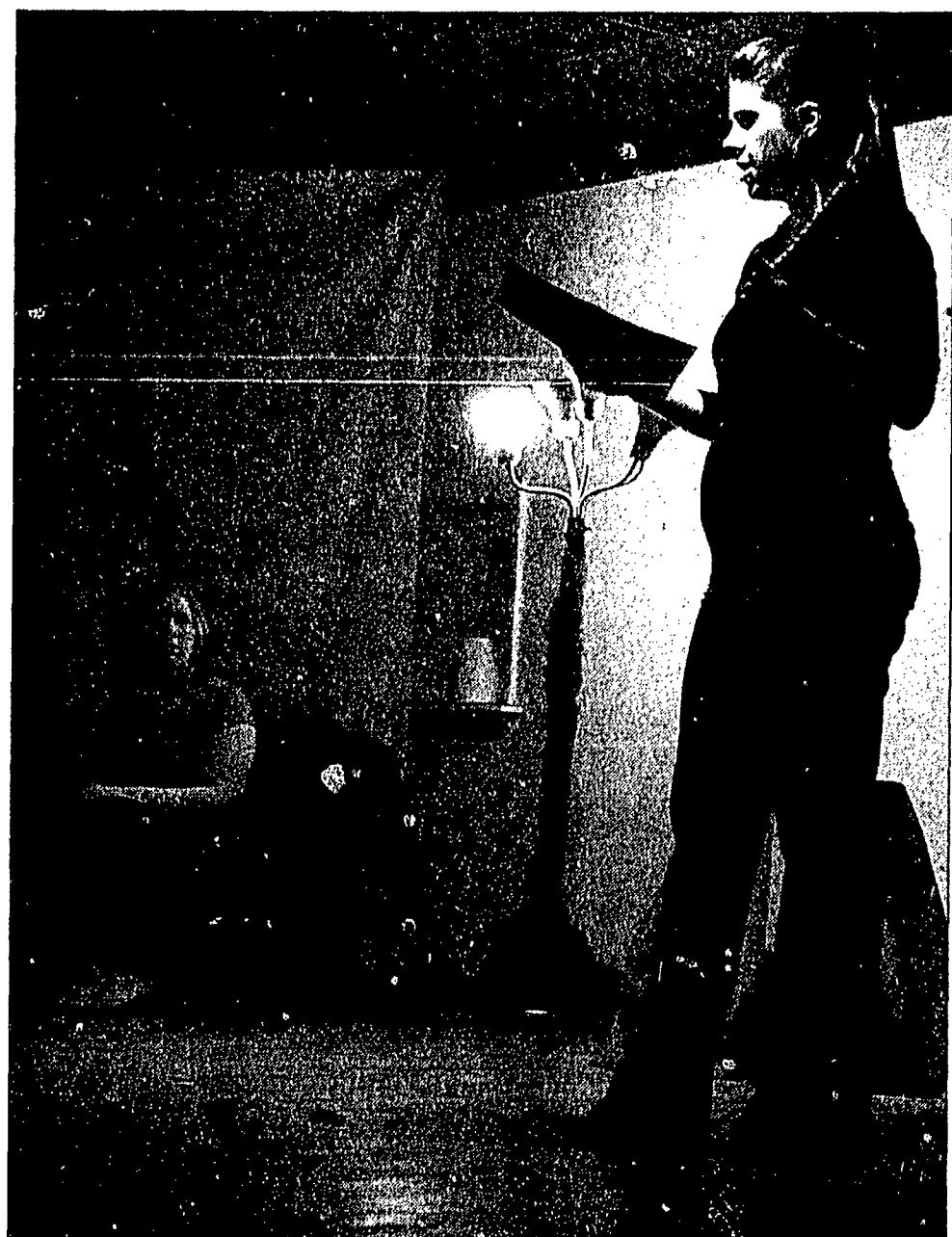
The Foundation's mission is to support education programs that focus on diversity and creating a safe environment.

The year following his death, members of the Tectonic Theater Project created a play that recounted the events of that night. "The Laramie Project" was then turned into a HBO movie that was released in 2000, according to Tectonictheaterproject.org.

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# CAMPUS

## SPEAKING OUT



JUNIOR CARA HOOD shares her story during the Vagina Monologues, an event put on by Amnesty International Saturday night at the Wesley Center. "I did it [Vagina Monologues] for the first time my freshman year, and I've just done it every year since. I really like the variety all of the monologues offer."

## Deaf culture explored with new minor

By Andrea James  
Chief Reporter

Students from all majors and backgrounds are gathering together to learn the basics of deaf culture.

New classes were offered last semester to teach deaf culture to students, language instructor Marcy Roush said. The classes can be taken either as a minor in deaf studies or for use as electives.

"Students can learn to understand deaf culture, values, communities, norms and things we are dealing with on a day-to-day basis as Americans," Roush said.

Deaf studies minor can also be tagged onto any major, she said.

"That is what is so unique about it. It can go into international business; it can be used in accounting, psychology and education majors," Roush said.

The new deaf studies minor has become increasingly popular both with students who want the minor and with students who want the elective credits, she said.

Northwest senior Lauren Suarez is majoring in psychology with a minor in deaf studies. During her first trimester at Northwest, she attended a speech class that Roush taught.

"Marcy would sign the entire time during class. She would have to hold her hands together to keep her from signing," Suarez said.

She thought it would be fun to learn and she could help others.

"Having experience in deaf studies makes you more hireable. It puts you above others in that you are able to interact with others and have that skill," Suarez said.

Northwest senior, and bio-psychology major, Rachel Smith is also taking sign language, even

though it isn't her minor.

"I started taking the classes because it looked like fun and I never wanted to stop," Smith said.

There are currently 17 students who have declared a deaf studies minor, with another five or six students trying to decide, Roush said.

Northwest faculty has been writing curriculum changes to incorporate the deaf studies minor for the past three years.

In 2004, Missouri House Bill 530 was signed into law. The bill states that all American Sign Language classes at secondary and post secondary levels can be counted towards language credits.

"Because of the signing of the law, we started putting the wheels in motion a lot more seriously than we had previously anticipated," Roush said.

After the bill was signed, Northwest had to realign their program to be conducive to schools that have interpreting programs.

ASL is the language used by the deaf community, Roush said. It has its own grammar, syntax and word usage.

"Some people think learning ASL is easier because it is 'English.' But when they get into the class they learn that that is not necessarily true; it reads differently and it has different sentence structure," Roush said.

Roush tries to present the different dialects of sign language to her students; however, she likes to stick to ASL because that is what the deaf community uses.

"The benefits of this program are a positive self-worth and the knowledge of being multicultural," Roush said.



JANESSA SKIDMORE and Laura Moppin first ideas for wedding flower arrangements from Keltha Clapp on Sunday at the Bridal Show sponsored by the Sigma Society. Clapp's booth for Maryville Florist garnered much of the attention throughout the day.

## Bridal show sparks ideas

By Lindsay Jacobs  
Asst. Features Editor

The soft sounds of romantic music in the background and the occasional whiff of freshly cut flowers filled the air, indicating the Sigma Society Bridal Show was once again here.

Sunday, Feb. 18 marked the 34th annual show and carried the theme "Love is in the Air."

The show is usually held in the Mary Linn Performing Arts Center, but since this year it was booked the show was held in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom, said Jana Wessler, Sigma Society Bridal Show Chair.

There were 15 vendors on hand for future brides and other attendees to chat with and gain ideas from.

Usually around 20 vendors attend the event, but this year since it was held so close to Valentine's Day many didn't think they could prepare in time, said Junior Erin Jewell, Sigma Society member.

Planning for the event began in October 2006, Jewell said.

Shannon Ream, owner of Shannon Renee's Formal Wear and Accessories made her first appearance at a Bridal Show. In fact she has owned the business less than a month. The event was a great way to get her name out there, she said.

The Sigma Society Bridal Show is nothing new to the owner of Spectacular Settings Wedding and Event Decorating owner, Teresa Hayes. Hayes said she has decorated the event for the past five years.

"It's nice to know you're going to make their day (brides on their wedding day) really special and memorable," Hayes said.

The event brought several future brides and their families out.

Laura Moppin, 25, of St. Joseph, heard about the event the day of from her future mother-in-law. She plans to get married June 23, and said the event was giving her a lot of ideas for her big day including a location for her bridal shower. She was considering having the shower at Paradise Park, one of the vendors. It is a place where special events are held in Oregon, Mo.

Lindsay Carroll, 20, of Maryville, attended the event with her mother, Rhonda. The event was helpful to them because there were a variety of vendors and a lot of them she hadn't heard of, Carroll said. She plans on getting married in May 2008.

Shelly Ludwig of Alchison County in Kansas came to the bridal show to watch her daughter Rachel, Sigma Society member, model two wedding dresses and a bridesmaid dress. She also came last year to watch her daughter, Ludwig said.

Members of Sigma Society modeled several wedding and bridesmaid dresses from Kim's Bridal and Tailor, located in Lee's Summit, Mo. Three bridesmaids dresses were modeled from Shannon Renee's Formal Wear and Accessories.

Sponsors of the event included Paradise Park, Maryville Florists, Video Expressions, Hy-Vee, Total Wattle Entertainment, Randall's Formal Wear, the Star Dusk and Def Jam disc jockey and Scott Erickson Photography.

—MARCHING BAND  
Band heads to London

By Shane Sherwood  
Missourian Reporter

Airing on over 500 television stations overseas, the 22nd Annual London Parade and Gala Concert Series spotlights the best bands around the world.

Next year the Bearcat Marching Band, the Wind Symphony and the Jazz Ensemble will perform at the annual invitational event.

The marching band will perform in the parade, while the wind symphony will perform in a gala concert and the jazz ensemble will perform in a London pub.

Costing \$2,000 per person, the trip to London for performance takes place on Jan. 1, 2008. The parade is said to have over 1 million people watching the event live, with millions more watching the event on international television.

Assistant professor and bands Director Carl Kling has accepted invitations for the Bearcat Marching Band, the Jazz Ensemble and the Northwest Symphony to perform in this annual invitation-only event.

Urging invitation to the University's bands, Terry Rush, instrumental music director from Lincoln High School in Nebraska, and Paula Crider, emeritus director of bands at the University of Texas-Austin, both recommended the bands.

"It is very gratifying to realize we have peers who respect our work enough to submit our name to do something on an international scale," Kling said.

Leaving Dec. 28, 2007, and returning in the new year on Jan. 4, 2008, about 120 students will participate in the event. Preparing for the event will include fund raising for the cost to go to London.

Kling said each student must come up with their own finances to participate, but the fund raising will ease the cost depending on the amount of money raised.

Other preparations are with help from University alumni. Kling said the Fall Street Show will bring in some money for the band. Preparing for the event also includes numerous practices and playing at regular football games.

# COMMUNITY

## COMMUNITYBRIEFS

### St. Francis makes \$2,000 donation to relief fund

A \$2,000 donation has been made to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund for the displaced victims of the Carson Apartments fire by St. Francis Hospital and Health Services.

The money is intended to help replace such items as coats, shoes, clothing, food, beds, medications and first month's rent for new homes.

To date, the Red Cross has raised \$11,652 for the final budgeted relief costs.

### Local AAUW branch offers relaxation techniques

Relaxation techniques will be presented during the Maryville branch of the American Association of University Women meeting 7 p.m., Thursday, March 8, in the Maryville Community Center's north meeting room.

Members will learn and practice two forms of relaxation techniques. William Waters, a Tai Chi instructor at the Maryville Community Center, will introduce the low-stress exercise. Anyone wishing to attend is welcome and is encouraged to wear comfortable clothing. The AAUW promotes equity for women and girls and positive societal change.

Any woman who holds an associate degree or higher or is a university student is eligible for membership. For more information call Karla Rusco at 582-7567.

### Economic development executive director spot vacant

The executive director of Nodaway County Economic Development, Sean Burge, has left his post for personal reasons, leaving their board to fill the vacancy.

The board is searching for Burge's replacement, but for now, Lisa Macali, a current employee of NCED, will act as interim executive director.

Burge held the job since September.

### Century Farms program seeks more applicants

The Missouri Century Farm program is currently searching for farms in Missouri that have been owned by the same family for at least 100 years.

In 2006, 187 new family farms joined the program with almost 4,000 families joining since the programs inception in 1986. For more information contact the Nodaway County Extension Center at 582-8101.

## Ceremony honors WWII veteran

By Marcus Meade  
Community News Editor

The Nodaway County Commissioners office had a few extra visitors on Feb. 20 as people gathered to witness the presentation of medals to the family of Ormond Mitchell for his military accomplishments during WWII.

Mitchell served as a Marine pilot from 1942 to 1946, flying dive-bombers in the South Pacific, said his son Steve Mitchell.

Mitchell received recognition in the form of a World War II Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars and the Honorable Service Lapel Pin.

"I think it just means a lot to the community as a whole and to the nation. Somebody who served their time earned some medals...their family can look back on it," said North District Commissioner Bob Westfall.

Ormond's son, Steve, accepted the medal for him with many family members looking on. He then placed on display a series of medals collected by his uncles as well.

"I just want my dad and his brothers recognized," Steve said.

Rep. Sam Graves was on hand to present the medals, a task he said, means a lot to him.

"We've got a lot of people out here who were very brave and gave their time and their youths and in some cases their lives for this country," Graves said.

People not receiving medals or losing track of medals is a problem for some, Graves said. He encourages people to contact his office if they would like to know about medals that were never received.

"What happens most of the time is a lot of these individuals are so humble they get out of the service and they just weren't interested in getting medals," Graves said.

The Mitchell family will donate the medals of all the Mitchell brothers to the Nodaway County Historical Society and Museum. Though he was the one receiving the medals, Steve insisted that the day belong to his father and uncles.

"It's not my day," Steve said. "It's the boys' day."

## —COMMUNITY PROFILE

### Thompson spends time as mayor, counselor

By Marcus Meade  
Community News Editor

Some would pass him on the streets and think nothing of it. People could see him at a convention and not know the story that lies behind the man.

Vietnam veteran, commercial fishing captain, recovered alcoholic, father of twins and Mayor of Maryville, all define his past.

Mike Thompson grew up in Maryville and has always considered it home, but from 1967 to 1987, he left his home to pursue exotic lands and sometimes rough seas.

In 1967, at age 18, Thompson joined the Navy, serving two tours in Vietnam, but after serving four years in the navy, was lost, he said.

"The Vietnam vets, when we came

home, we didn't get a lot of ceremonies," Thompson said. "...After Vietnam I didn't have a lot of purpose in my life."

Thompson then decided to take a friend of his up on an offer to join him as a commercial fisherman; a profession that Thompson said suited him at the time.

"I never was afraid of hard work, and I really like being out on the ocean," Thompson said. "When you untie the boat, and you head to the ocean, all your land problems just stay there."

His adventures in fishing eventually took him to the Pacific Northwest where he became captain of his own boat, Thompson said.

But a life in fishing had its ups and downs.

"The north pacific fisherman has the highest death rate per capita of any job...probably in the world. There's a lot

of my friends that aren't here anymore, that drowned," Thompson said.

During his time as a fisherman, Thompson became the father of two...at the same time. His paternal twins, Dylan and Reggie, were 1-year-old when he decided it was time for a change.

Fighting alcoholism and the strain of spending so much time away from his kids, Thompson decided it was time to come home.

"It was home...I was born and raised in Maryville," Thompson said. "It's also a great place to raise kids."

At 38, he entered college at Northwest and graduated four years later with a degree in psychology and a minor in criminal justice, Thompson said. He also met his wife, Vicki.

After getting his masters at the University of Missouri, Thompson began

his new life as a counselor. Now, he gets to help people with addiction problems much like his own.

In 2001, Thompson became mayor of Maryville, an office he's held for the last three years.

"He's been instrumental in increasing communication between the city and our federal and state legislatures," Councilman Chad Jackson said.

Thompson still enjoys fishing, though on a much lower scale, he said. He and his wife also spend time watching Bearcat football together, rarely missing a game.

With the drastic change of lifestyle, does Thompson have any regrets?

"I enjoyed my life on the ocean," Thompson said. "And it was time for me to get off the ocean because I enjoy being a parent and loving my kids more."



Presents:



Judy Shepard is the mother of Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old college student who was brutally murdered due to anti-gay violence.

She is speaking to audiences about what they can do to make their schools and communities safer for everyone; regardless of their race, sex, religion, or sexual orientation.

Come See Judy Shepard  
at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 27th  
at the Charles Johnson Theater



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## —OURVIEW

### Wal-Mart ought to be applauded for discount drug plan

Life used to be a trade-off for some Maryville residents. Sometimes life is a matter of heating a home or buying prescription drugs.

Sometimes senior citizens and lower-income residents have to decide whether they want to fill their stomachs or their prescriptions.

In response to this, Wal-Mart, at the end of last year, began offering 30-day supplies of more than 300 drugs for \$4 a piece—an offer we think ought to be commended.

"Each day in our pharmacies we see customers struggle with the cost of prescription drugs," Wal-Mart CEO H. Lee Scott, Jr. said in a press release. "By cutting the cost of many generics to \$4, we are helping to ensure that our customers and associates get the medicines they need at a price they can afford. That's a real solution for our nation's working families."

Senior citizens who have found themselves in the "doughnut hole" coverage gap in their Medicare Part D drug plans will be helped tremendously because many of them now foot 100 percent of their prescription medicine costs.

College students on tight budgets are also going to be helped by this tremendously. An editor on staff went to fill her prescriptions earlier this week and put an extra \$20 in her account to cover the cost and was shocked when the two refill cost less than \$5. Over the course of a year, Wal-Mart's drug plan will save our editor \$180—money she can use toward school or basic necessities.

In a country where legislators refuse to make health insurance available to all, this is a step in the right direction in at least making some prescriptions available to everyone.

Some opposed to the action point out that while Wal-Mart claims over 300 drugs are on the discounted list, in reality only 124 drugs are available in multiple doses and strengths. While this may be the case, those are still 124 drugs that were previously potentially unattainable for some residents.

No human being should have to choose between basic necessities and prescription drugs. We think it's great that a person can now eat, heat their home and afford prescription refills.

It's about time.

## —LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Response to 2/8/07 column—  
"Student Senate Budget Needs to be Allocated Better"

Student Senate exists to promote the interests of the student body at Northwest, and to assist in this goal, the University provides funds for the Senate through the grant of an annual budget.

In turn, the University receives funding from the state and as such, Senate funds are considered to be, at least in part, state funds.

This is important to note because state law disallows the giving of charitable donations from state funds; however, at times the Student Senate has wished to donate funds to worthy causes, such as the Red Cross's fire victims fund.

In order to do so, Student Senate created a separate fund, the fundraising account, from which to donate funds. This account is separate from the regular Senate budget and is funded not by University sources, but through the fundraising efforts of senators.

Donations to the United Way, the Red Cross, and other charitable organizations are funded from this account. Following our donation to the Red Cross, the balance of this account stood slightly above \$100.

Allocations to student organizations for conferences, competitions, and events are made through the larger Senate budget.

Since many organizations seek

funding through Senate, we have developed a series of guidelines to help us equitably distribute these funds. One guideline states that "Generally, allocations shall not exceed \$1,000" and the following guidelines states that "Student Senate Allocations are supplemental funds and generally shall not exceed 50 percent of total cost of the event."

These guidelines were designed to accommodate larger requests in extreme cases, while also providing an equitable base from which to allocate funds.

In evaluating funding requests, the Organizational Affairs Committee and Student Senate consider the number of members participating in the event, the benefit to Northwest and previous fundraising attempts by the organization, as well as any other pertinent factors.

Questions or concerns regarding the allocation process may be referred to the Organizational Affairs Committee chairwoman, Abby Freeman, while budgetary issues should be referred to Senate treasurer, Adam Watson.

Students may contact the Student Senate by e-mail, senate@nwmissouri.edu, or phone, ext. 1218, or may stop by the Student Senate Office located in the Campus Activities Office in the Student Union.

Sara Chamberlain  
Student Senate President



## —COLUMN

### University should cancel classes because of nice weather as well

"Get me out of here."

This has pretty much been my mindset so far this week, as I sit wasting away in class and in the Missouriian newsroom.

Well, maybe "wasting away" is too harsh of an expression.

It's just that I'm a tad restless, thanks mostly to Mother Nature's recent injection of mild weather into our community. I believe the correct phrase is "cabin fever," and you know, mine is about ready to break.

Questions or concerns regarding the allocation process may be referred to the Organizational Affairs Committee chairwoman, Abby Freeman, while budgetary issues should be referred to Senate treasurer, Adam Watson.

Students may contact the Student Senate by e-mail, senate@nwmissouri.edu, or phone, ext. 1218, or may stop by the Student Senate Office located in the Campus Activities Office in the Student Union.

First of all, yes I did, I wrote a column on Maryville's unpredictable weather last year. Second of all, I can barely stand to read other columns about the so-called "pop



Evan Young  
Copy Editor

princess," let alone write one of my own. So, weather it is. Case closed.

Looks like we're finally going to be pulled out of the below-freezing depths and pushed into a realm of seasonable temperatures, at least for a few days, according to Weather.com.

I seriously cannot believe that last week, "outside" was the last place I wanted to be. Now, it's the only place I want to be. I suppose fickle weather helps create fickle people.

There was an outcry last week when the University didn't cancel class because of the winter storm. I imagine there's an even stronger, though perhaps subtler, outrage this week that we have school, because of the nice weather. Suddenly, everyone's cabin fever has lifted, but we have no way of justifying it.

These spring-like temperatures just had to come during midweek, translated as "seven days

of obligatory academic hell." And, just our luck, as the temperature increases, so does the amount of coursework.

So far, I've been forced to drag myself out of bed and into the snow, ice and Mach 3 winds, only to arrive to class and sit through mind-numbing lectures. That's all fine and dandy, I can live with it.

But now that I will have the ability to go outside and experience the sheer heavenliness that is my favorite season, exams, papers, reading assignments and other time-consuming busywork quickly silence my efforts.

Then there is the Missouriian. Now, don't get me wrong. I love my job a lot. But when I enter the Wells Hall basement for work in broad daylight, then leave when it's pitch black outside and realize just how long I've worked, I feel like I've somehow missed out on part of my life.

I know it sounds like I'm complaining, and the truth is, I am. So what? We're Americans, that's one of the things we do best! But with my grievances comes the perfect suggestion.

I think the University should

offer "mild days" or "spring days." They'd be just like snow days, only they'd be given on account of good weather, preferably on good days that follow a long bout of miserable weather.

Since Northwest doesn't seem to want to cancel class when it's really terrible outside, how about doing the exact opposite?

No, there wouldn't be much notice, but aren't most snow days declared without much notice? Plus, I'm sure we'd all appreciate the pleasant surprise.

And I wouldn't even mind going to school for an extra few days to make up for any lost time. Our spring trimester certainly ends early enough to allow for some wiggle room.

Let's face it, Maryville winters are painful enough to warrant a massive jubilation when they finally come to an end.

There's no reason why, when Mother Nature gives us a break from the cold weather every year, we shouldn't take advantage of it. I think it would make for a pleasant seasonal transition, physically and mentally.

Case closed!

## SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Jan. 9  
■ Clearmont subject reported phone harassment

Jan. 26  
■ Perry Duncan, 44, Watson, DWI

■ Teresa Wiley, 41, Maryville, forgery

Jan. 27  
■ Conception subject reported theft from residence

Jan. 28  
Elmo subject reported theft

Jan. 31  
■ Sara Carter, 21, Pickering, arrested for passing bad checks

■ Hopkins subject reported trespassing on land in Hopkins

Feb. 1  
■ Maryville subject reported a theft from a farm near Pickering

Feb. 2  
■ Windy Taube, 31, Kansas City, arrested for non-support

Feb. 3  
■ Ravenwood subject reported stolen checks from his residence

Feb. 5  
■ Burlington Jct. subject reported a trespass complaint

Feb. 6  
■ Sheridan subject reported theft from farm near Sheridan

■ Hopkins subject reported theft of an ATV

■ Garry Patterson, 45, Crosby, arrested for non-support

Feb. 10  
■ Tarkio subject reported a vehicle fire in Burlington Jct.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Feb. 8  
■ Jacob P. Rockey, 19, Maryville, permitting a peace disturbance; Jay M. Lamontagne, 19, Maryville, permitting a peace disturbance, 100 block W. Sixth

Feb. 10  
■ Jason P. Gute, 19, Maryville, MIP, resisting/interfering with arrest, 700 block E. First

■ Michael S. Mora, 23, Maryville, DWI, careless and imprudent driving, 400 block W. Sixth

■ Derek G. Garrett, 23, Maryville, DWI, equipment violation, 400 block W. 11th

■ Adam W. Wermanger, 19, Caledonia, Minn., MIP, 200 block W. Third

Feb. 11  
■ Towed vehicle, 1991 white Geo Storm, 300 block W. Seventh

■ Jonathan D. Graham, 22, Norfolk, Neb., possession of 35 grams or less of Marijuana, failure to maintain right half of roadway, 1100 block W. Fourth

■ Towed vehicle, white 2007 Avalor, 600 block W. Torrance

Feb. 12  
■ Austin J. Bollou, 19, Maryville, disorderly conduct, 1600 block S. Main

Recovered property, Kansas Drivers License, 400 block N. Buchanan

Feb. 14  
■ Towed vehicle, 1994 Purple Saturn, 100 block W. Torrance

■ Larceny, ongoing investigation, 600 block N. Main

Feb. 15  
■ Leaving the scene of an accident, ongoing investigation, 1200 block N. Dewey

Feb. 16  
■ Michael R. Moran, 21, DWI, failure to display lighted head lamps, 200 block N. Buchanan

■ Dakota C. Dreher, 18, Maryville, failure to appear, 400 block N. Market

■ Larceny/stealing, coin dispenser and cash, 700 block S. Main

Feb. 17  
■ Codi D. Nuckolls, 29, Maryville, DWI, equipment violation, failure to yield to emergency vehicle, 300 block N. Market

■ Nathan G. Bush, 20, Maryville, MIP, 400 block N. Buchanan

Feb. 18  
■ Patrick R. VanGundy, 37, Maryville, DWI, failure to stop at posted stop sign, 400 block S. Frederick

■ James E. Gentry, 21, Maryville, DWI, failure to maintain right half of roadway, 600 block W. Fourth

Feb. 19  
■ Stephanie N. Mercer, 17, Maryville, possession of 35 grams or less of Marijuana, 500 block W. South Avenue

■ An unknown driver struck a parked car owned by Dana H. Billings, Maryville, in the 1100 block Main.

OBITUARIES  
Derril Wayne Ross, 80, Maryville, died Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2007, at his home.

He was born Dec. 7, 1926 in Maryville, the son of David and Mary Alice (Pike) Ross. On June 24, 1945 he married Mary Alice Carmichael.

Derril served in the Missouri National Guard and retired from Nodaway Worth Electric in 1987 after 20 years service.

A member of the First Baptist Church, he was a past member of the James Edward Gray American Legion Post 100 and the Elks

Jan. 22  
■ Jonathan D. Whipple, 25, Pickering, Mo., and Cindy S. Nelson, 35, Maryville, collided at South Avenue and Depot

Feb. 8  
■ Irene Rodrick, 68, Maryville, and Amy M. Weldon, Maryville, collided in the Maryville Meadows parking lot.

Feb. 10  
■ Holly L. Smiley, 32, Maryville, and Edward T. Strade III, 28, Maryville, collided at South Avenue and Walnut. Smiley was cited with failure to yield right of way from a stop sign.

Feb. 12  
■ Tara D. Kramer, 33, Guilford,

Mo., and Emily A. Garland, 22, Maryville, collided at 1200 S. Main

■ Casey C. Farrens, 25, Maryville, and Nicholas G. Pfeiffer, 20, Maryville, collided at Fourth and Main

Feb. 13  
■ Brooke N. Simons, 21, Maryville, and Thomas R. Whalen, Bellevue, Neb., collided at 600 block E. First

Feb. 14  
■ Erin M. Miller, 18, Maryville, and Jennifer L. Martin, 20, Maryville, collided at Seventh and Buchanan. Martin was cited with failure to yield.

Feb. 16  
■ Tiffany K. Bradford, 20, Maryville, and Melissa A. Privett, 33, Maryville, collided at College Avenue and Munn. Bradford was cited with careless and imprudent driving.

■ Kristin L. Almond, 21, Maryville, and Trisha M. Deen, 18, Maryville, collided at Edwards and Vine. Almond was cited for failure to yield from a stop sign.

■ An unknown driver struck a parked car owned by Dana H. Billings, Maryville, in the 1100 block Main.

OBITUARIES  
Derril Wayne Ross, 80, Maryville, died Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2007, at his home.

He was born Dec. 7, 1926 in Maryville, the son of David and Mary Alice (Pike) Ross. On June 24, 1945 he married Mary Alice Carmichael.

Derril served in the Missouri National Guard and retired from Nodaway Worth Electric in 1987 after 20 years service.

A member of the First Baptist Church, he was a past member of the James Edward Gray American Legion Post 100 and the Elks

Jan. 22  
■ Jonathan D. Whipple, 25, Pickering, Mo., and Cindy S. Nelson, 35, Maryville, collided at South Avenue and Depot

Feb. 8  
■ Irene Rodrick, 68, Maryville, and Amy M. Weldon, Maryville, collided in the Maryville Meadows parking lot.

Feb. 10  
■ Holly L. Smiley, 32, Maryville, and Edward T. Strade III, 28, Maryville, collided at South Avenue and Walnut. Smiley was cited with failure to yield right of way from a stop sign.

Feb. 12  
■ Tara D. Kramer, 33, Guilford,

Lodge, Maryville. He was preceded in death by his parents; granddaughters: Staci Renee Ross; great-grandson: Noah Tolbert and three brothers: an infant, Leo and Eldon Ross; five sisters: Neva Damewood, Ruby Keith, Mildred Mires, Bessie Ulmer and Jessie Miller.

Survivors include his wife: Mary Alice Ross, of their home; sons, Gary W. St. Joseph, Mo.; Terry L. Maryville, Mike L. St. Joseph, David L. Savannah and Eric E. Maryville; daughter: Tina Deen, Maryville; 11 grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services were Saturday, Feb. 17 at the First Baptist Church, Maryville. Burial is in Miriam, Cemetery, Maryville.

Memorials may be made to the Mid America Heart Institute, c/o St. Luke's Hospital, 4401 Wornall Road, Kansas City, Mo., 64111.

Grace Pierpoint, 100, of Maryville, died Monday, Feb. 19, 2007 at Village Care Center, Maryville.

Grace was born Nov. 28, 1906, the daughter of Walter James and Stella Mae (Summer) Hayden, in Nodessa, Kan. She married Lester Albert Pierpoint Sept. 26, 1928 in St. Joseph.

A homemaker, Grace was a member of the First Christian Church, Maryville.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lester Pierpoint on Oct. 29, 1990; her parents; brothers: Charles and Curtis Hayden; sisters: Velma McGinness, Maysel Garrett, Ruth Rickman, Lucille Leeson and Elizabeth Dowden.

Survivors include her children: Burdette Pierpoint, Maryville; Kirby Pierpoint, Rock Port and Judy Ebert, Pleasant Hill, Mo.; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; sisters: Ruby Ballenger and Betty Holbrook, both of Maryville.

Visitation was 7 to 8 p.m. Wed., Feb. 21 at Price Funeral Home

BIRTHANNOUNCEMENTS  
Augustus Allen McCollough, Chad and Monica McCollough, Maryville, are the parents of Augustus Allen McCollough, born Feb.

with Funeral Services at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22, at Price Funeral Home, Maryville.

Burial will be in Nodaway Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Maryville.

Norma Lee Wolfe, 81, Oregon, Mo., (formerly of Graham, Mo.), died Thursday, Feb. 15, 2007 at Heartland Regional Medical Center, St. Joseph, Mo.

Norma was born Jan. 28, 1926 in Mound City, Mo., the daughter of Carl and Jennie Ione (Guthrie) Owens. On Sept. 19, 1946 she married Francis LaVerne Wolfe in Troy, Kan.

A member of the Graham United Methodist Church, Norma was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents and a sister, Doris Ousley.

Survivors include her son: Rex Wolfe, Bolckow, Mo.; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were Monday, Feb. 19 at Price Funeral Home Chapel, Maryville.

Burial is in Benton Cemetery, Mound City.

Memorials may be made to the Oregon Care Center, 501 South Monroe, Oregon, Mo., 64473 in Mrs. Wolfe's name.

Grandparents are Marlin and Janice Meyer, Ravenwood, Mo., and Larry and Debbie Busby, Parnell.

Great-grandparents are Audrey Ditmore, Ravenwood, and John and Catherine Busby, Parnell.

Grandparents are Wayne Coffelt, Savannah, Mo.; Marvin and Geraldine Sumy, Skidmore, and Clarence and Virginia Woods, Memphis.

Soyle Irene Busby  
Brad and Jamie Busby, Parnell, Mo., are the parents of Soyle Irene Busby, born Feb. 13, 2007 at St. Francis Hospital.

Baylie weighed 5 pounds, 10 ounces.

Grandparents are Marlin and Janice Meyer, Ravenwood, Mo., and Larry and Debbie Busby, Parnell.

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7. National School Lunch free lunch program
8. Veteran Administration Disability Benefits, State Blind Pension, State Aid to Blind Persons, Federal Social Security Disability, or State Supplemental Payments (only those who are totally and permanently disabled or blind)
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Link-Up will pay 50% of your activation charges or \$25.00, whichever is less.

How do I know if I am eligible?  
If you qualify for Lifeline, you also qualify for Link-Up.

Does Link-Up have any restrictions?  
You must provide proof of eligibility before the service can be activated. The Link Up discount cannot be applied to activation charges you incurred before you applied for the program.

How do I apply for Link-Up?  
To apply for Link-Up you will follow the same application process as Lifeline and the same proof of eligibility as Lifeline.

Being a Lifeline or Link-Up customer does not protect you from being



## WARCRAFT: Alternate reality comes with a price

continued from A1

sociology and counseling department.

In the past few years, several fatal cases have been reported worldwide due to the game's addicting factors.

In China, a player committed himself to a three-day, nonstop session of "World of Warcraft" to prepare for a final battle. Unfortunately, she died from exhaustion.

An online funeral was held for her but was quickly overshadowed by another player dying from exhaustion, according to Chinaview.cn, China's national news Web site.

Also, parents of a 13-year-old boy are currently fighting a lawsuit battle against Blizzard, the game's maker, for allegedly causing their son's suicide. The boy leaped to his death from a 24-story building after he tried to reenact a scene from the game, his parents claimed.

"Anything monopolizing a significant amount of time is something to be concerned about. Games that have elements of violence tend to translate from the screen to someone's life," said Virginia Murr, director of wellness and assistant director of health services at the University Health Center.

Because the brain is not fully developed until the age of 24, games that have elements of violence can create an impulsive behavior reaction to brain stimuli resulting in violent or aggressive behavior in children and young adults, according to Murr.

"Researchers debate if (aggression) lies in the person or the stimuli that are addictive, but the link between TV violence and character violence is affected negatively. However, computer games are

in such a new arena, prevention remains unseen," Edwards said.

Many countries have created rehabilitation centers strictly devoted to overcoming addiction to "World of Warcraft" and other video and computer games.

For example, the Smith and Jones Wild Horses Center in Amsterdam was the first treatment center focused on gaming. Patients go through a detox where the gamer

must quit any type of video or computer game completely with the help of group therapy, psychologists and psychiatrists.

Often times, patients must also quit the stimulants that keep them alert

to play the game such as coffee, Red Bull or soft drugs.

"The treatment is centered on admitting power over addiction because gaming can be catastrophic if a person doesn't self-regulate," Murr said.

Despite the addicting factors, sitting slouched, staring at a computer screen for consecutive hours or days can also have serious health effects on the body.

Long-term gaming can contribute to hand arthritis or carpal tunnel syndrome, stiff neck, severe back pain, sleep disturbances and obesity.

"Gaming needs more and more attention from researchers as it's becoming a sign of addiction and a problem for the body physically," Murr said.

As a level 70, Bollin has limited his game play to one to two hours a day. But he still gathers his allies to defeat his enemies and sharpen his

guild's skills every night at 7 p.m.

"It may be really addictive to some people, but it really feels like you're accomplishing something," Bollin said. "I just play 'Warcraft' like it's everything which really means nothing."

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## MEDICINE: 331 discounted generic medications now available

continued from A1

The \$4 generic drug program started in September 2006 in Tampa, Fla., Wal-Mart spokeswoman Marisa Bluestone said.

The program caused an increase in customer demand and Wal-Mart spread it to all 3,810 Wal-Mart pharmacies before their intended date, according to Walmart.com. It was brought to Missouri on Oct. 26, 2006.

"It is part of an ongoing commitment to make health care more affordable for those in need," Bluestone said.

Wal-Mart welcomes the competition that this program will bring,

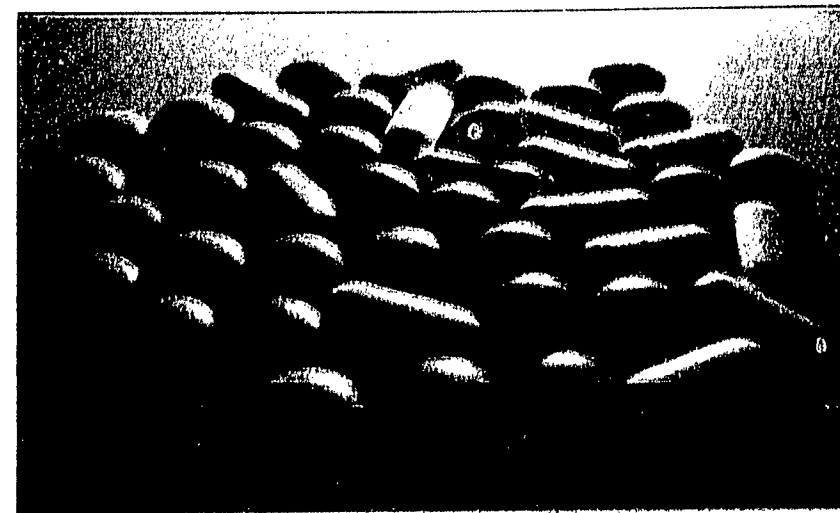
Bluestone said.

The people who started and initiated it are proud of their program.

"There is no catch or forms to fill out. Just give us your prescription and it will only cost you \$4," Bluestone said.

There are 331 generic drugs on this list; the list is broken into categories such as diabetes, colds and arthritis medication, she said. Wal-Mart is working on ways to incorporate other medications into their program.

For more information and a list on which generic drugs apply to the program, go to Walmart.com or the Maryville Wal-Mart.



WAL-MART'S \$4 generic drug program attempts to make medication more affordable. It is offered in all 3,810 Wal-Mart pharmacies in the United States and covers 331 generic medications.

## St. Gregory's holds a Jazzin' Jubilee

By Jared Bailey  
Missourian Reporter

New Orleans had Mardi Gras... but so did Maryville.

St. Gregory's Barbarigo Parish hosted the Jazzin' Jubilee for over 300 citizens of the city, Feb. 17.

The Mardi Gras-themed party took place in the Catholic School's gymnasium and was part of the annual Parish Celebration, the church's only event that is designated just for adults. The gymnasium was transformed into a ballroom, complete with chandelier and candle-lit tables. Guests had a meal made up of Cajun and Creole cuisine and danced to music provided by the Northwest Jazz Ensemble.

After dessert, the audience watched as the Jazzin' Jubilee parade made its way through the tables. Parade members wore beaded necklaces, and green, purple and gold masks as they handed out candy to everyone.

"Every year I look forward to the creative theme that our outstanding volunteers come up with," audience member Cris Jacobson said. "This year, they outdid themselves."

The party was designated for adults, but was not limited to Catholics. Over the years, the parish celebration has turned into a community event, planning committee member,

Diane Sudhoff, said.

Ten percent of the proceeds from the event were used for donations to victims of Hurricane Katrina living in Eunice, La., Maryville's sister city. The rest of the money earned would go to the parish's budget.

The \$25 tickets treated guests to more than the food, ensemble and parade. The night also included a performance by Sharp Five, a jazz group.

"We never played a Mardi Gras," Sharp Five member, Joe Sisco said. "But I'm glad we did. It is easier to play at a higher level when everyone is digging what you do."

Further entertainment was added by a dance routine involving men dressed in homemade alligator costumes.

The theme for the parish celebration was picked in October and every year it has been different. Last year the celebration was called the Heavenly Hop, a 50s nostalgia party, and the year before that it was the Lordy Luau.

The theme for the next celebration has yet to be decided.

"Somebody always asks 'What are you doing next year?'" said Sue Dorrel, stewardship director and business manager for the parish. "It is kind of like having a baby. You say you don't want to do it again, right now."

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# SPORTS

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—MHS WRESTLING FEATURE

## All in the family

By Scott Levine  
Asst. Sports Editor

Sweat seeps into the mats as it pours off the two wrestlers' foreheads. As bodies smash onto the surface, there is something noticeably different about these mats.

These mats are not found in a school and their surface absorbs much fewer bodies in the winter than ordinary mats. The hard-hitting surfaces endure less body slams because they reside in a Maryville basement.

That basement is part of a home belonging to Dave and Joan Merrill, and they've witnessed two state qualifiers grapple tirelessly on these household fixtures over the past year.

Dakota and Dannen Merrill recently participated in their first state wrestling tournament in Columbia. Dannen and Dakota were two of three Maryville wrestlers to survive the tournament's first day, as Dannen placed fifth.

"We used to just clear things out when we wanted to wrestle," Dakota said, laughing.

The Merrill's installed their makeshift wrestling room this past summer and it has helped decline the amount of items broken in the basement.

"Oh, we broke a dining room table, numerous lamps and some mirrors," Dakota said.

But this came as no surprise to Jean. "You don't raise a household of boys without something breaking," Jean

said.

But this wrestling bug didn't start with Dakota and Dannen. The Merrill's have left a lasting impression on Maryville's wrestling community.

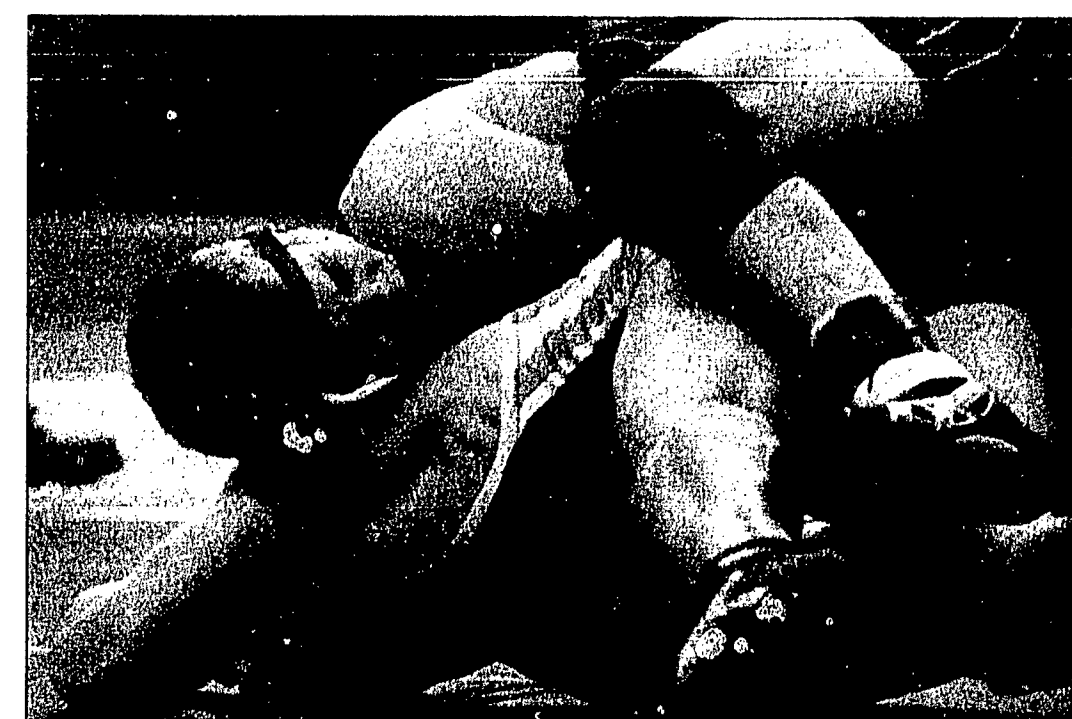
Oldest brother David started the wrestling fever when he decided to join the team his sophomore year. During that same year, D.J. began wrestling for his eighth grade team.

"My first memory of wrestling would be watching dual matches of my brothers when I was younger," Dannen said.

These matches helped both boys learn more about wrestling.

"We would spend all day at tournaments and really learn more by watching

see FAMILY on B4



DAKOTA MERRILL grapples with a wrestler during the state wrestling tournament in Columbia. Merrill was one of three Spoofoound wrestlers to make it out of the first day. Merrill joined brother Dannen, who placed fifth, at the tournament.

—MHS BASKETBALL



MARYVILLE SPOOFHOUND senior Jaclyn Guess scores as she jumps higher than a Cameron Dragon defender in Tuesday night's game held at the Maryville High School. Guess won the game at the last possible second by shooting from half court. The 'Hounds defeated the Dragons 43-42.

## 'Hounds escape Dragons

By Ashley Lovely  
Missourian Reporter

As if the Maryville girls basketball senior night was not emotional enough, a battle for the victory lasting down to the game's very last seconds left the crowd and players speechless.

The 'Hounds defeated the Cameron Dragons 43-42 after leaving for halftime down by one. Maryville came out of the locker room ready to play and get a win for those five senior players junior Leah Wilmes said.

"These girls have been great leaders on and off the court," Wilmes said. "They didn't just tell us how to play basketball, they showed us through the talent they have."

During the second quarter, the game remained within three points, with both teams fighting back and forth for control of the ball. After numerous steals and fouls, Wilmes said that no one knew who was about to win.

With the help of freshman Meridee Scott, who had the game high of 13 points, Maryville took a dominating lead in the third quarter.

"We don't stay fresh for very long, we needed to mix it up a bit," head coach Grant Hageman said. "Scott's a good player and has really come along this year, she did a great job."

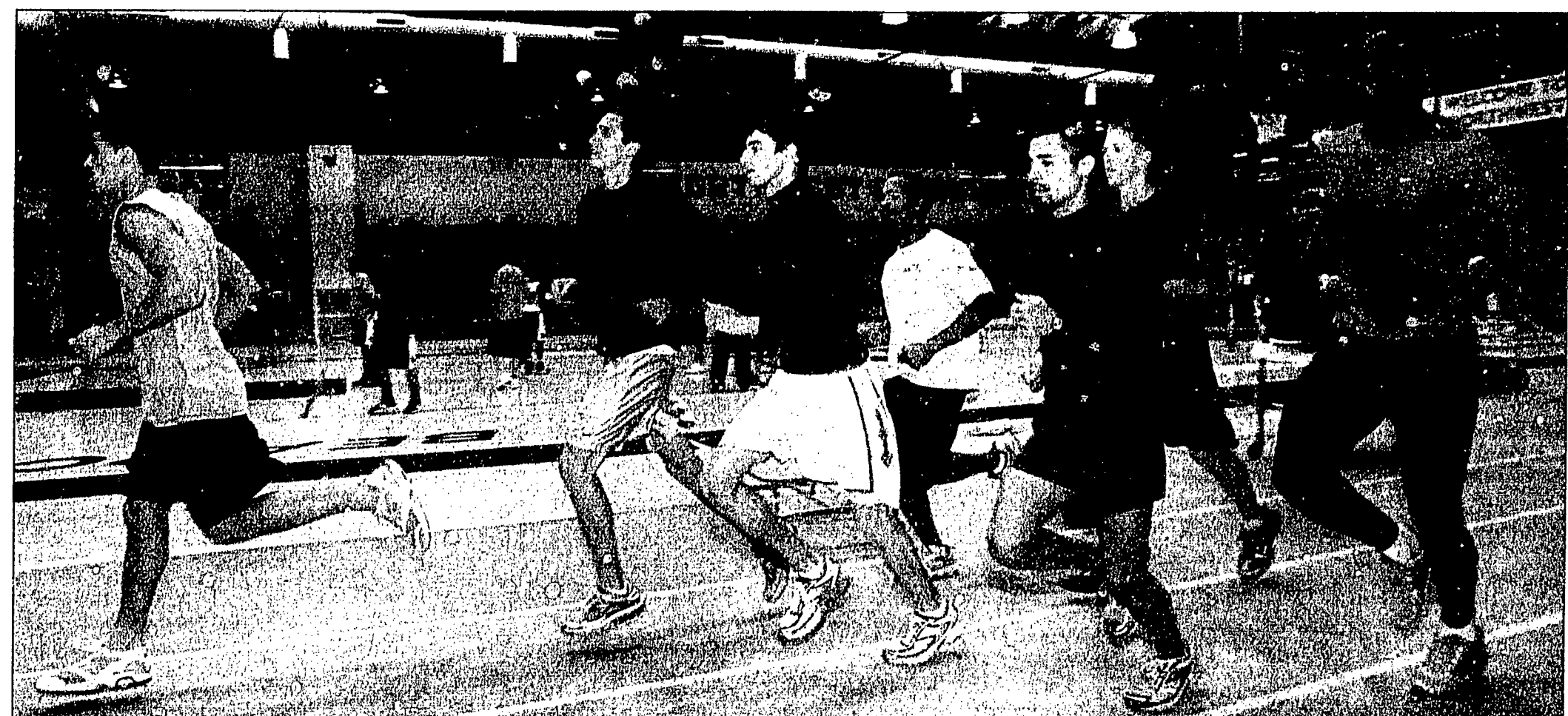
Hageman said he could not have asked for a better way to end senior night, with two wins in a row and the final shot made by senior post player Jaclyn Guess.

"It's a real special way to end the season. We're on a roll now going into Districts," Hageman said.

The 'Hounds will see if they can continue their winning ways during districts, Feb. 26.

—NW TRACK

## Striding toward Central



## Men's, women's track teams compete in MIAA championships

By Jared Verner  
Missourian Reporter

Men's track and field head coach Richard Alsop is hoping momentum created by the men's team at the Prairie Wolf Invitational will last.

Preferably, through the MIAA Championships that begin on Friday.

Both Northwest track and field teams head back to Warrensburg, Mo., for the MIAA Indoor Track and

Field Championships. The event will last through Saturday at the UCM Multipurpose Building.

Part of that momentum was sparked from senior high jumper Bayo Adio, who surpassed the indoor school record with a 6-11 3/4 mark Feb. 16, at the Prairie wolf Invitational. The 6-11 mark he passed was the oldest standing field event record among current school records.

"I'm awfully happy for him," Alsop said. "You have to be happy

for him. He's such a good person and puts in so much, and he's such a team person. He spreads a lot of goodwill on the team."

Senior middle distance runner Eric Isley generated more momentum, being named the MIAA Track Athlete of the Week on Feb. 19. He lowered his provisional qualifying mark in the 800-meter run to 1:51.67, finishing third.

"I think Eric didn't even know how fast he could run last week, because he wasn't even hardly breathing hard when he finished," Alsop said. "I think it just surprised him. He's getting in shape, he ran fluid, he didn't tighten up, and he

see TRACK on B2



—MHS WRESTLING

## 'Hounds end season with two on medal stand

By Sam Robinson  
Chief Reporter

With a starting lineup featuring just one senior and several freshmen in key roles, the Maryville high school wrestling team's season could have been dubbed a rebuilding year from the outset.

But with seven state qualifiers, three of them freshmen, this version of the Spoofoounds surpassed expectations.

The medal stand in Columbia made room for two of the seven 'Hounds Saturday afternoon as senior Cliff Robertson and freshman Dannen Merrill attained All-State honors.

Coach Joe Drake said the wrestlers were elated to be a part of the state championships

and learned a lot from their matches.

"It was a great experience for them and they're already talking about next year," Drake said. "They've seen what it takes to win at this level and they're talking about their preparation over the summer for next year."

The 160-pound Robertson led the way, closing his career by finishing fourth, narrowly eclipsing his fifth-place finish from a year ago. Freshman sensation Dannen Merrill capped his 2007 campaign with a fifth-place finish at 119.

Robertson advanced to the semifinals before losing an overtime decision by one. Once in the consolation bracket, he battled back by advancing to the third-place match

before finally getting eliminated.

Robertson (32-12) described his second state tournament as bittersweet.

"It could have been better," Robertson said. "I was looking to go to the finals but sometimes there are just better people out there. I was a little disappointed but I tried as hard as I could."

Merrill (29-10) also advanced to the semis but fell to the eventual class champion. After getting pinned in his first wrestleback match, he won his final one via decision to notch fifth place.

"He was a little overmatched in the semis," Drake said. "Sometimes when they lose, they lose the drive to win but he showed good determination and came back to win

a medal."

Luke Lancaster, Tanner Archer, Derek DeMott and Jacob Zech each lost in the first round of wrestlebacks. Junior Dakota Merrill won his first consolation match but failed to reach the medal round.

As for next season, the 'Hounds return the remaining six qualifiers and the remainder of the team.

Robertson is leaving toward attending Cornell College in Iowa to continue his wrestling career.

"Everyone wrestled well, no one froze," Drake said. "The competition is just very tough at this level. We're not displeased with the outcome, just got to prepare and get back there next year."



—NW MEN'S BASKETBALL

## No. 15 Northwest controls own destiny

By Brett Barger  
University Sports Editor

With a little help from Emporia State, No. 15 Northwest is poised to do something it hasn't done in five years—win a conference championship.

Monday night, then No. 19 Emporia, defeated then No. 8 Central Missouri, 78-71, to knock the Mules back into a first-place tie with Northwest. Both the Bearcats and Mules sat at 13-3 entering Wednesday.

Should Northwest and Central win their remaining games, both will share the MIAA regular season championship. After playing Missouri Western Wednesday night, Northwest closes its regular season Saturday at home against Fort Hays State. Central played Southwest Baptist Wednesday and closes their season at Washburn.

"We're just going to play a two-game season and see where we're at after Saturday," Northwest coach Steve Tappemeier said.

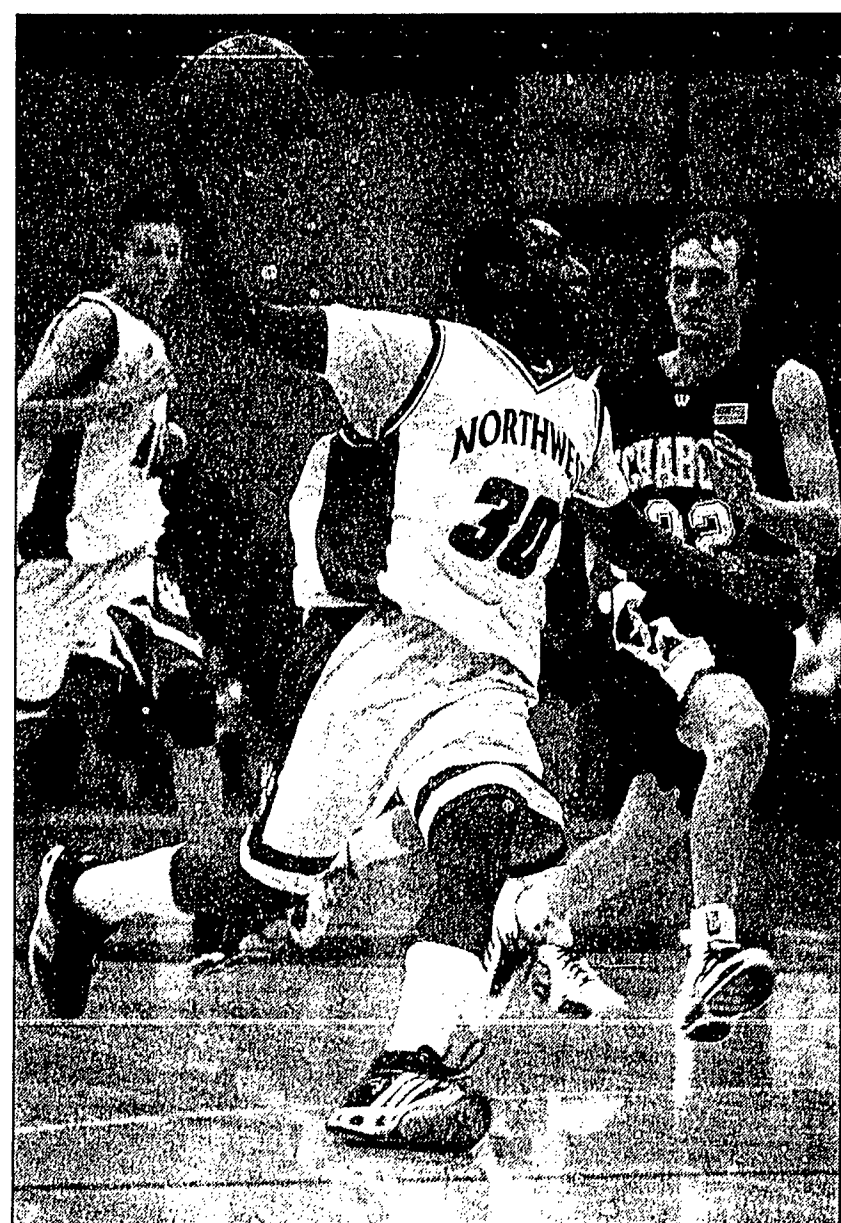
Victor James, who will be honored along with Reggie Robinson on senior day Saturday, did not downplay the possibility of a conference championship in his last season, but said the team "must stay humble."

"We want to win it but it's like our coach (Tappemeier) always tell us, we take a look up and see that we have a conference championship, then we got to look down and see we have a big challenge," James said.

Northwest soundly defeated Fort Hays State, 72-54, Dec. 30, and since then, Fort Hays has stumbled to a 12-13 record and 5-11 in conference play. Like Western, Fort Hays is battling for one of the final two spots in the MIAA post-season tournament in Kansas City, March 1-4.

Jeff Pruitt and Alex Davenport are the only players averaging double-figures with 13.6 and 10.2 points, respectively. As a team, they are between the middle and bottom of the conference in every major offensive category.

Despite their sub-par record, Fort Hays defeated Central Missouri, 87-77, Feb. 7—a fact that Northwest



NORTHWEST'S JOHN HAWKINS runs down the court in the first half of the game against the Washburn Icaboos during Wednesday night's game held in Bearcat Arena. Hawkins, who made the last free-throw of the game, sealed the win for the Bearcats in double overtime, 87-84.

can't lose hold of.

James said the team respects every opponent they play for the reason that "any team on any given day" can knock out Northwest.

"If you don't come out ready to play...before you know it, you've got an 'L' on your record," James said.

After losing to Pittsburg State, Northwest has responded with wins against Truman State and Missouri Southern. Hunter Henry, who won

his third MIAA player of the week honor, averaged 26.5 points, 8.5 rebounds, 5.5 assists and 3.0 steals during the week.

"We kind of messed it up with Pittsburg State. We were in the driver's seat and that's something we've got to live with," freshman Lance Sullivan said. "This is a big game for us and they're coming to knock us out. All we can do is control our own destiny."

—NW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Senior guard ready for season finale

By Cali Arnold  
Community Sports Editor

All Northwest wants is a win. With a fourth or fifth seed secure in the MIAA conference tournament, the women's basketball team knows a win against Fort Hays State Saturday is crucial for their spot in the region.

"That's all we're looking for, is to get the win," sophomore Meghan Brue said. "We don't care how or anything, just win."

Northwest coach Gene Steinmeyer said Wednesday's game against Missouri Western (game results not available at press time) shouldn't affect the Bearcats' spot in the region, unless the loss to Washburn Feb. 14 dropped their seed below sixth.

Northwest defeated Fort Hays at home Dec. 30, 70-62, and sat at 5-11 in the conference before Wednesday's matchup against Washburn.

Lone senior Katie O'Grady will be ending her career in Bearcat Arena Saturday. None of the conference tournament or regional games will be held at Northwest.

"Honestly, I haven't really even thought about it that much because there are a lot of exciting things going on with our team right now," O'Grady said. "But it's going to suck for sure."

"Northwest has been really good to me and I'm sure once the game time comes around I'll be extra excited or pumped or whatever."

O'Grady, who transferred from the University of Nebraska-Kearney her sophomore year, has made 39 three-pointers in 25 games this season to lead the 'Cats. Steinmeyer said she has been a huge addition to the team since her arrival as a transfer.

"Katie's glass is usually half full and that means a lot," Steinmeyer said. "She's been a team player whether she started or came off the bench."

Coaches and players alike agree that defense will be the key for the team for the remainder of the season. O'Grady said they have had lapses on defense at different times, so that will be the main concentration as the season comes to an end.

Northwest will tip off against



NORTHWEST GUARD Meghan Brue falls to make a lay-up as Washburn guard Cindy Kealey rips the ball out of Brue's hands in the second half of the game held in Bearcat Arena. The Bearcats lost to the Lady Blues 86-73.

the Tigers at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, at Bearcat Arena.

## TRACK: 'Cats prime for conference clash

continued from B1

still ran 1:51.67. He's a true competitor. He works hard and it pays off. He's got a lot of talent."

Isley and Adio will look to defend their MIAA indoor titles this weekend. The two currently lead the MIAA performance list in individual events. Long jumper Sheldon Cook and triple jumper Dierdra Calbert also lead the conference in their respective events.

First-place finishes in four events may not be enough to claim the first Northwest conference title since 1992. If the conference championship is scored exactly off of the performance list from Feb. 20, the Bearcats would finish fourth, 12 points out of second and nearly 50 points from first.

But Alsop believes that his team's commitment to so far this week will pay dividends in the weekend.

"I feel even better with just the attitude coming into this week," Alsop said. "They're getting a good feeling around everyone. That's confidence."

While the men hope to continue the momentum created last weekend, women's head coach Scott Lorek looks to build it back up after a few setbacks last weekend. Cook and triple jumper Hannah Henry, the leading hurdler for the women's squad, crashed in the 60-meter hurdles.

The disruption also affected freshman Johanna Avilez, who was running in the lane beside Henry. The 4x400-meter relay team false started, disqualifying them from the event.

"That was a weird kind of deal," Lorek said on the false start. The Prairie Wolf Invitational still included some noteworthy performances. Senior Kaileen Cook

finished fourth in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.84. Sophomore Anna O'Brien set a personal record in the mile, finishing sixth in 5:11.12. In the triple jump, Emily Churchman passed the 36-foot mark for the second straight week, reaching 36 1/4 to finish third.

Northwest currently doesn't have any female individuals leading the conference performance list. But Lorek finds it a challenge going into the championships this weekend.

"I think we're going to battle real hard and I think we have possibilities of scoring in a lot of different events," Lorek said. "I'm looking forward to it. This is the most depth we've ever had. Quite honestly, we don't have people that are for sure conference champions or anything like so. It's going to be tough, so we're going to have to battle for everything we get. We're ready for that."

## 'Hounds fall in defensive battle

By Sam Robinson  
Chief Reporter

A two-man showdown was the main attraction Tuesday night as Maryville's Andy Walter and Cameron's Aaron Fritz carried their squads.

Assistent coach Ryan Tool said Cameron's adjustments widened the margin between the two teams.

"They made adjustments at the half to get him (Fritz) the ball," Tool said. "We set some screens for him and they just couldn't close the gap after that."

The first half featured each team stifling the other with tight defense as the half ended with Maryville down two, 16-14. The third period saw the close portion of the game end with Fritz coming off screens and consistently getting to the foul line, exploding for 17 points.

Behind Walter's 20-point effort,

Unfortunately for the Spoof-hounds, Fritz received more production from his teammates as the Dragons handed the 'Hounds a 44-35 loss.

Assistent coach Ryan Tool said Cameron's adjustments widened the margin between the two teams.

"They made adjustments at the half to get him (Fritz) the ball," Tool said. "We set some screens for him and they just couldn't close the gap after that."

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Behind Walter's 20-point effort,

the 'Hounds clawed their way to within six at 36-30 midway through the fourth quarter. Following a brief scoring drought, Maryville was forced to foul and face Cameron's consistent free throw shooting, which eventually did them in.

The loss is the team's sixth in seven games and ends Maryville's regular season at 8-14 as they await the first round of district play.

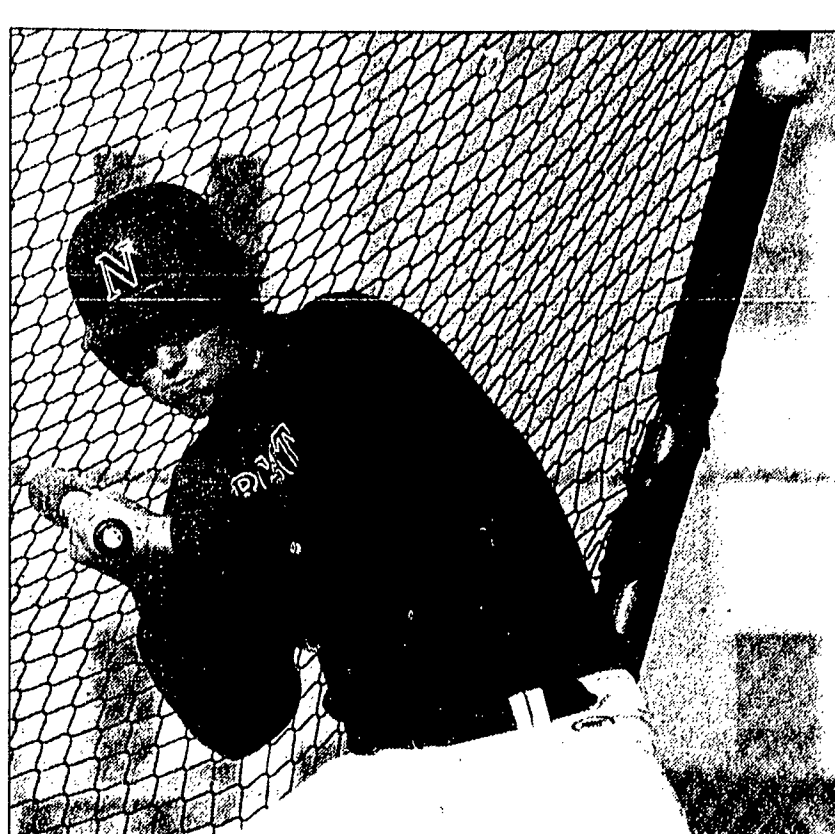
Coach Mike Kuwitzky feels his team improved as the regular season wound down.

"Most games we lose, we have a chance to win," Kuwitzky said. "Our guys are giving all they can and that's all you can ask."

Fourth seeded Maryville faces fifth seeded Pittsburg on Tuesday at St. Joseph-Leblond in the first round of districts.

# SPRING PREVIEW

—NW BASEBALL



A NORTHWEST baseball player tries to avoid a pitch during practice inside the Lamkin Activity Center. The squad opened the season, taking three out of four against Arkansas Tech.

## 'Cats take out Wonder Boys

By Sam Robinson  
Chief Reporter

Down four runs in the final inning in game two of the four-game series, the Northwest baseball team faced the biggest test of their young season.

The cardiac Bearcats responded by rallying to tie the score in the seventh and padded the comeback with five insurance runs in the extra frame to seal the victory.

Coach Darin Loe was impressed with his team's ability to rise to the occasion. "That's one of those games that you want to get into early in the season so you can make a comeback," Loe said. "Our guys did a great job of going up and getting on base. Certainly it was a confidence builder and hopefully it's one of those things we can use down the road."

That win, along with two Bearcat offensive slugfests, gave Northwest the series over Arkansas Tech to open the season last weekend.

Aside from the clutch hitting and single-inning scoring sprees, the main theme of the weekend was the 'Cats' reliable pitching.

In game one, sophomore transfer Bret Harvel went six innings, including four consecutive no-hit frames, to get the win in the 12-3 mauling on Friday. In game two, starter Brian Lamers went two shutout innings before a third inning ball halted his momentum and five quick Wonder Boy runs followed.

Following Lamers' exit, the bullpen held Tech to one run over the next four innings as the Bearcat bats hibernated. As the top of the seventh began, the 'Cats were down 6-2 when five consecutive hitters reached base with shortstop John White singling in the tying run. Senior closer Brett Whittle held Tech scoreless in the lower half and easily picked up the win when two Wonder Boy errors gave him a five-run cushion in the eighth.

Whittle did not see his team panic at all after they got down early, which led to the late-inning run explosion. "It was pretty amazing," Whittle said. "A lot of the stuff can be attributed to the mental game that we've been working on. We all kept a positive attitude and never got down. It's also much easier to pitch well when you've got a five-run lead at the end of the game."

The 'Cats lone defeat came in game three Saturday night as they saw Tech pitcher Cody Taylor throw a complete game, striking out five in the 4-1 loss.

In game four, Britt Westman outscored the Wonder Boys by himself. The junior first baseman blasted a three-run homer in the first and drove home two more with a double in the eighth. Those represented the only earned runs as six Tech errors brought home the rest of the Bearcat baserunners. Sophomore starter Danny Malone got the win for the 'Cats in the 11-2 series clincher.

Loe believes the team was aided greatly by the numerous Tech errors.

"If we take a look at every time we scored, the pitcher had given us something," Loe said. "I think we did an outstanding job of capitalizing on their mistakes. The only downside we did not start many rallies ourselves. We have to come out and have more productive at-bats with the bases empty."

Leadoff man Jake Bradshaw led the team at the plate going 7-for-17 and swiping four bases while the team's 3-1 start is its best in three years.

Northwest travels to Pensacola, Fla., this weekend to begin their weeklong tour of the southeast, beginning with a four-game set against 24th-ranked West Florida at 4 p.m., Monday.

—NW SOFTBALL

## Finding a new home

By Scott Levine  
Asst. Sports Editor

After a record breaking 2006 campaign, Northwest's softball team endured a greater loss than usual.

Not only did two starting seniors graduate off a team that broke countless records, but also head softball coach Susan Anderson departed for her alma mater, Central Missouri.

Sophomore pitcher Cola Krueger said the team was prepared for a new coach.

"I think we all expected (Anderson leaving) a little bit," Krueger said. "But everyone was excited to see what we would bring in."

So the Bearcats were left with not only adding new players, but also finding a coach prepared to keep the program's momentum rolling.

Enter Ryan Anderson. Anderson enjoyed unprecedented success at Missouri-Rolla before being named head softball coach earlier this summer. That was when he realized he was joining a league in which he became fond of during his tenure at Missouri-Rolla.

"The biggest opportunity for me was getting back in the MIAA," Anderson said. "I really enjoyed the competition when my previous team was in this league."

During his first two years at Missouri-Rolla, Anderson's team competed in the MIAA, but during his final year, the team moved to the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

This move sent Anderson's team all over the region facing teams from Kentucky, Indiana and Wisconsin. Other factors, coupled with vast travel, pushed Anderson in Northwest's direction.

"My last school was such a science-based school, that it was very tough to schedule practices," Anderson said. "But what I enjoyed the most there was getting to have individual workouts with each player. With my team now, I have tried to use that same approach, and so far it is working."

The easier accessibility to have practices and the team's work ethic has made the transition easy, but leaving Missouri-Rolla was difficult for Anderson.

After attaining over 20 team records, Anderson said this year's

Missouri-Rolla team could be the best he had. However, the 'Cats potential has him focused on another solid softball season.

And success during his first year at a school is nothing new to Anderson. This was one aspect Krueger said was important when Anderson was hired.

"We wanted a coach with a good reputation," Krueger said. "We wanted the coach to have a good work ethic and a good strategy to the game. We wanted someone who would continue to work hard and continue our program."

Anderson has compiled a .606 career winning percentage during four years of coaching. This includes a record of 41-14 during his first year at Missouri-Rolla.

But softball success was not something Anderson thought he would attain.

After a shoulder injury ended his football career at Mesa State (Colo.), Anderson joined the marketing department at Nebraska-Kearney.

"I originally wanted to coach, but I didn't want to coach at the college level," Anderson said. "I

also didn't want to teach at the high-school level. That's why I didn't start with coaching."

Despite Anderson's reluctance to coach at the college level, Nebraska-Kearney's softball coach was fired, opening the door for a former softball player that Anderson knew.

Anderson became the assistant coach and then was hired for one year at Minnesota-Crookston. This started Anderson's softball career, but his softball knowledge came before his career started.

"I played baseball in high school, but my father taught me a lot about softball," Anderson said.

Anderson's father played fast pitch softball during Ryan's younger years. During summer league practice, Anderson remembered his father throwing underhand as a form of batting practice.

Now with the 'Cats void filled, the team is ready to start the season after an early season cancellation. Northwest travels Friday and Saturday to the Evangel tournament in Springfield, Mo.

Northwest squares off against Concordia (Neb.), Columbia and Rogers State (Okla.) Friday. A bracket play occurs Saturday.

## —MEN'S/WOMEN'S TENNIS

Date	Opponent	Team Time
3/2	@ Topeka, Kan. Vs. Metropolitan State	Both TBA
3/3	@ Topeka, Kan. Vs. Winona State	Both TBA
3/3	@ Topeka, Kan. Vs. Southern Colorado	Both TBA
3/9	Missouri Western	Men 3 p.m.
3/9	@ Springfield, Mo. vs. Drury	Women 9 a.m.
3/10	@ Springfield, Mo. vs. Drury	Men 10 a.m.
3/10	@ Springfield, Mo. vs. Ouchita Baptist (Ark.)	Women 2 p.m.
3/10	@ Springfield, Mo. vs. Cowley County (Kan.)	Women 6 p.m.
3/16	Nebraska-Omaha (Indoors)	Both Noon
3/17	Emporia State	Both 2 p.m.
3/18	@ Missouri St. Louis	Both 2 p.m.
3/20	Northwest Baptist	Both 3 p.m.
3/21	@ Kirksville, Mo. vs. Quincy University (Ill.)	Both 3:30 p.m.
3/22	@ Southern Illinois	Both 2 p.m.
3/23	Truman State	Both 3 p.m.
3/24	Nebraska-Kearney	Both 10 a.m.
3/28	Rockhurst	Both 3 p.m.
3/30	St. Cloud State (Minn.)	Both 3 p.m.
3/31	Missouri Southern	Women 1 p.m.
4/5	@ Kansas City vs. Baker	Men 3 p.m.
4/6	@ East Central (Okla.)	Men 3 p.m.
4/6	@ Tahlequah, Okla. vs. Harding (Ark.)	Women 3 p.m.
4/7	@ Northeastern Oklahoma	Women 9 a.m.
4/7	@ Tahlequah, Okla. Vs. Midwestern (Texas)	Women 2 p.m.
4/11	Washburn	Both 3 p.m.
4/12	@ Benedictine	Men 3 p.m.
4/13	Lincoln (Mo.)	Women 10 a.m.
4/14	Fort Hays State	Women 1 p.m.
4/18	@ Graceland (Iowa)	Both 3 p.m.
4/21	@ MIAA Championships, St. Joseph	Both TBA
5/4	@ NCAA Regionals	Both TBA
5/9-12	@ NCAA Nationals, Allamonte Springs, Fla.	Both TBA

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# SPRING PREVIEW

## —MHS BASEBALL

# New coach brings fresh ideas

By Marcus Meade  
Community News Editor

He's waited for six years, and now he'll get his chance.

Thom Alvarez, new head coach of the Maryville baseball team, has spent six years at the high school hoping for a chance to work with the baseball team, and now, he's overseeing the whole thing.

"It was really special for me for them to give me a chance," Alvarez said. "Having not been a baseball coach at the high school, I think they were kind of going on my past reputation and some of the work I'd done with the high school kids over the summer. So, I was really pleased when they gave me the

opportunity."

Alvarez has never held a position with the baseball team at Maryville, but said he has coached at the high school level before. He coached at two schools in California, his home state.

"Growing up in California we never had to practice inside," Alvarez said. "We're going to have to do a lot more individual work."

That work will be to improve on the 4-14 record of last season.

To help with that task, Alvarez has five seniors and 12 returning lettermen including Matt Parker, a team leader in RBI's.

"He's going to work more on defense...I think you'll see a better defense out there. We're going to

try to cut down the errors," Parker said.

The 'Hounds had a total of 68 errors last season, which averages to almost four errors a game.

With only five seniors, the 'Hounds will be counting on some younger players this year, Alvarez said. Players like sophomore Adam Mattson, who saw two starts at pitcher last year.

During these early months, installing his own brand of baseball will be the first thing on Alvarez's agenda, he said.

"I want to play an upbeat, put the pressure on the other team, type of baseball. Both offensively and defensively," Alvarez said.

With an aggressive style of play

the 'Hounds hope to send a message to other teams that a game at Maryville is going to be a dogfight, Alvarez said.

"I want to take care of our house," Alvarez said. "I think winning games at home is where it all begins."

Along with his short-term goals, changing the culture of baseball in Maryville is a long-term goal of his. Alvarez hopes to get his players playing together in the summer to build the trust and chemistry it takes to win during the school year, he said.

The 'Hounds begin practice on Feb. 26 and play their first game at home 4:30 p.m., March 19, against Nebraska City.

## —BOYS' GOLF

**Coach:**  
Brenda Ricks

**Returning Golfers:**  
Seniors:  
Bert Darnell  
Josh Hayes  
Spencer McGinness

**Juniors:**  
Luke Hendrix  
Zack Johnson

**Sophomores:**  
Ivan Alumbaugh

**First-time Golfers:**  
Juniors:  
Chase Barr  
Josh Cordell  
Ben Sneed

**GOLF SCHEDULE:**  
3/22 4 p.m.  
3/29 4 p.m.  
4/5 4 p.m.  
4/10 4 p.m.  
4/19 1 p.m.  
4/12 4 p.m.  
4/14 Noon  
4/17 4 p.m.  
4/20 9 a.m.  
4/23 9 a.m.  
4/24 8:30 a.m.  
4/26 4 p.m.  
4/27 8:30 a.m.  
4/30 TBA  
5/1 4 p.m.  
5/7 TBA  
5/14 TBA

**Freshmen:**  
Tyler Coverdell  
Levi Runyon  
Brian Sneed

**Team Goals:**  
Straighten drives  
Improved putting skills  
Keep their scores low  
Go to state

**Coaches Goals:**  
Get the golfers focused on their short game  
Do well in home tournaments  
Do well in the conference and in districts  
Expect to go to state  
Improve

3/22 4 p.m. F/J/V/V @Smithville  
3/29 4 p.m. J/V/V @Fairview  
4/5 4 p.m. F/J/V/V Benton/Savannah  
4/10 4 p.m. F/J/V/V @Cameron  
4/19 1 p.m. V @Shenandoah Tournament  
4/12 4 p.m. F/J/V/V Tarkio/ NEN/ Rockport  
4/14 Noon V Pembroke Hill  
4/17 4 p.m. F/J/V/V @Platte County  
4/20 9 a.m. J/V/V @Cameron Tournament  
4/23 9 a.m. F/J/V/V @Chillicothe Tournament  
4/24 8:30 a.m. J/V/V Maryville Tournament  
4/26 4 p.m. F/J/V/V @Fairview  
4/27 8:30 a.m. V @Richmond Tournament at Shirkey GC  
4/30 TBA V Districts at Shirkey GC  
5/1 4 p.m. J/V/V @Fairview  
5/7 TBA V MEC meet at Cameron  
5/14 TBA Varsity State Tournament

\*Schedule is tentative and subject to change

## —MHS BOYS' /GIRLS' TRACK

Date	Meet	Time
3/22	@ Kearney Time Trials	3 p.m.
3/28	@ Platte Co. 9th-10th	4 p.m.
4/3	@Nebraska City Invitational	2 p.m.
4/3	@Lafayette Freshman Relays	4 p.m.
4/6	@ Chillicothe - Girls only	2 p.m.
4/6	@ Clarinda Invitational - Boys only	5 p.m.
4/10	Maryville Invitational	4 p.m.
4/13	@ Chillicothe High School	2 p.m.
4/17	@ Savannah Relays	4 p.m.
4/23	@ Platte Co. Invitational	4 p.m.
4/24	@Lafayette Irish Relays	3 p.m.
4/27	Maryville Relays - Senior Night	4 p.m.
5/5	@ MEC Meet	TBA
5/8	@ Cardinal Relays	4 p.m.
5/12	@ Districts	TBA
5/19	@ Kearney - Sectionals	TBA
5/25	@ Jefferson City - State	TBA

## —BOYS' TENNIS

The Maryville High School boys' tennis team is looking at this season for improvement after losing some players from last year's team.

This year it may take a few months for the Spoofhounds to

return to form, but they hope to be better by the end of the season when they enter districts. With some up and coming freshmen on the roster, the 'Hounds look to do well in the always-close conference schedule.

**SCHEDULE:**  
Date Time Location  
3/22 4:30 p.m. J/V/V @Savannah  
3/29 4:30 p.m. J/V/V @Lafayette  
4/3 4:30 p.m. J/V/V LeBlond  
4/5 4:30 p.m. J/V/V Benton  
4/9 4:30 p.m. J/V/V Cameron  
4/10 4:30 p.m. J/V/V @Shenandoah  
4/17 4:30 p.m. J/V/V Lafayette  
4/19 4:30 p.m. J/V/V @Benton  
4/23 4:30 p.m. F/J/V/V Savannah  
4/30 4:30 p.m. J/V/V @Savannah  
5/1 4:30 p.m. J/V/V LeBlond  
5/7 8:30 p.m. V @Tournament  
5/7 5:30 p.m. J/V/V @Chillicothe  
5/10 TBA V @Districts  
5/19 TBA V @Sectionals  
5/25 TBA V @State

\*Schedule is tentative and subject to change

# AT YOUR LEISURE

## —HOROSCOPES

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To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

### Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today is an 8 — You're collecting the reward. Don't spend it all in one place. Don't tell anybody how much you got, either. Keep it invisible.

### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today is a 7 — You may be getting tired of the nervous, excitable types. Might as well get used to them. They are drawn to your self-assurance.

### Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Today is an 8 — As you expound your theory, with data to support it, the others realize how smart you are. Don't skip the data. Although you're charming, that's the important part.

### Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Today is an 8 — Of course you care about others. It's OK for them to understand how much you've already done for them, and how much you can do, in the future. Let them figure it out, from hints.

### Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Today is a 6 — You're advancing but now you're getting into somebody else's territory. Remember your manners and see what you can do for the person in power.

### Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today is an 8 — New possibilities open up, and you want to go check them out. Your main problem is figuring out how to make this trip work-related. Don't worry — you'll come up with something.

### Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today is a 5 — You can stand away quite a bit for the future now, if you will. That, and fixing up your place, are your best financial options.

### Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Today is a 7 — Set up a partnership now that's about teaching as well as learning. This will be solid and supportive for many years, most likely.

### Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today is an 8 — The work's getting steadier. If you commit to doing what's asked of you now. Slow and steady will do just fine — you'll see.

### Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today is an 8 — Often, it's up to you to make success happen in your life. This time, you'll notice a greater Power helping you to relax. It's OK — you'll emerge refreshed.

### Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today is a 6 — Put your money into a good investment that you and your family can enjoy while you're accruing wealth. Buy land.

### Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Today is an 8 — The next assignment is for you to get your team to work together. You do this by delegating a specific task to everyone.

## —STROLLER

# Your Man hates censorship



The Stroller

When I came to Northwest I expected to be censored. I knew that when I told my teachers one of their questions was crap that I would probably be in trouble for it.

What I didn't know was that college is less like a Nazi Germany and more like a politically correct crapshoot.

When I was a kid I played cowboys and Indians. Now, there are no Indians, there are Native Americans, but no Indians. So what do kids play? Cowboys and Native Americans?

But is cowboy politically correct? Is he a cowboy? Or a cowperson? Where does the insanity stop?

I cannot stand these ultra-sensitive liberal hippy professors who look like they haven't bathed since the '60s.

It's not Black, it's Afri- American. It's not gay; it's homosexual, and if you're white,

well you're just white.

Well, I have a new idea. I'm no longer white. I am now pigmentally challenged.

This country will get to a point when we aren't allowed to speak because we all fear imprisonment for calling a gay man a gay man... instead of a homosexual person.

I'm sorry, but I mean no harm. When I describe a black man as a black man, I have no intention of disrespecting his race. I'm simply describing him as, you guessed it, a black man.

How did we get to this point? We've come so far that we now create new terms to describe people. There are no such things as handi-

capped people. They are physically disabled. At least, I think that's what they are. Political correctness changes so frequently that the terms I write as politically correct in this article will no doubt be bigotry by tomorrow.

I'm not saying break out your bed sheets lets start a cross burning. That is wrong, and that is racism. But give me a break. I mean if I refer to an Indian as a Native America, will that give them their land back?

No. But the \$200 I lost playing blackjack might.

The only solace I have is that no matter how politically correct this country becomes, no matter how many gay people become people attracted to those with sexual organs the same as theirs, or whatever we will call them, I know that this country will never become politically correct to make fun of Canada. And that lets me sleep at night.

Canada sucks.

## —MOVIE REVIEW

# 'Ghost Rider' sputters through bad plot

By Daniel Whitacre  
Missourian Reporter

"Ghost Rider" is a story about a man named Johnny Blaze, played by Nicolas Cage, who makes a deal with the devil to save his father from death. Blaze's part of the deal is that he will become the Ghost Rider and carry out the devil's deeds when called upon.

With a story that lends itself very well to anyone with a sense of darkness and tragedy this movie could start off great. Add \$120 million and this movie should be a No. 1 hit.

Unfortunately, money isn't everything. It would seem that director Mark Steven Johnson has a laughable ability for putting superheroes on the big screen. There are a few moments in the movie when it has to be assumed that the actors were directed to perform as if they were auditioning for a children's film about fire safety.

As much hype as was made by the movie it's no shock that it is trying to make its huge budget back in early ticket sales. From the beginning, "Ghost Rider" burns through the back story as if expecting the audience to walk out unless it cuts to the chase. From there it flies through weak plot points and incredibly disappointing fight scenes, all the while trying to piece together religious gibberish and western folklore.

It only makes sense that it would be a race to save the world from Armageddon at the hands of an evil demon, however the first thought after the final battle should not be, "that was easy."

This movie raised the question, after "Batman Begins" did so well, why wouldn't studios start producing well-made superhero movies?

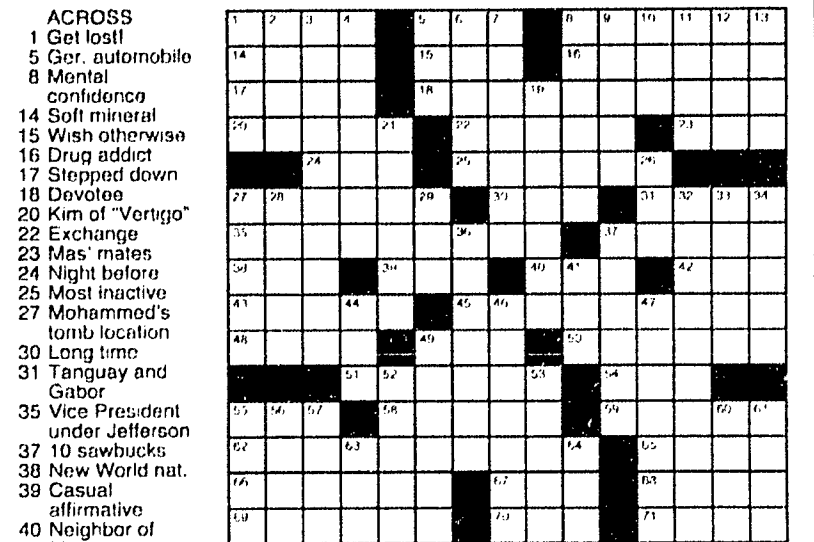
A story such as "Ghost Rider" could have been developed into something really good. Instead, every chance that the film had

to make a good plot it choked hard. Fans will leave shaking their heads in disgust, and everyone else will have a fleeting impression.



Dan rates "Ghost Rider" 1 out of 5 popcorns.

## Crossword



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**ACROSS**  
1 Get lost  
5 Get automobile  
8 Montana  
10 Cynical  
14 Soft mineral  
15 Wish otherwise  
16 Drug addict  
17 Stepped down  
18 Davids  
20 Kim of "Verigo"  
22 Exchange  
23 Max males  
24 Night before  
25 Most inactive  
27 Mohammed's tomb location  
30 Long view  
31 Tanganyika and Gabon  
32 Vice President under Jefferson  
37 10 sawblades  
38 New World nat.  
39 Casual affirmative  
40 Neighbor of Mali  
42 Pro's foe  
43 Lodge entries  
45 Athlete's wrist wrap  
46 "Engrenin"  
47 Na Na  
49 Bad classes  
51 Best score ever  
54 Mythical bird  
59 "The tub"  
60 Quickly, shortly  
61 Kilimanjaro  
62 ATM and vending  
63 Astrology's boy machines  
64 Dieter's unit  
21 G and Chesney  
28 X on a sundial  
27 Boa Arthur sitcom  
28 Artist's stand  
35 Lincoln or Fort...  
36 Singer's instrument?  
40 Tanya's Yarn Kippur  
43 Transmits  
45 Results  
47 Critic Roger  
47 Provides the food for  
48 Green army uniforms  
41 Smidge

**DOWN**  
1 Circle of light  
2 Circle of light  
3 Green army uniforms  
4 Mexican poet  
5 Linguist item  
6 Clives  
7 Stronger  
8 First  
9 Moloch  
10 Operate  
11 Quickly, shortly  
12 Chymera's mother  
13 Astrology's boy machines  
14 Dieter's unit  
21 G and Chesney  
28 X on a sundial  
27 Boa Arthur sitcom  
28 Artist's stand  
35 Lincoln or Fort...  
36 Singer's instrument?  
40 Tanya's Yarn Kippur  
43 Transmits  
45 Results  
47 Critic Roger  
47 Provides the food for  
48 Green army uniforms  
41 Smidge

**Solutions**  
ACROSS  
1 GET LOST  
5 GET AUTOMOBILE  
8 MONTANA  
10 CYNICAL  
14 SOFT MINERAL  
15 WISH OTHERWISE  
16 DRUG ADDICT  
17 STEPPED DOWN  
18 DAVIDS  
20 KIM OF "VERIGO"  
22 EXCHANGE  
23 MAX MALES  
24 NIGHT BEFORE  
25 MOST INACTIVE  
27 MOHAMMED'S TOMB LOCATION  
30 LONG VIEW  
31 TANGANYIKA AND GABON  
32 VICE PRESIDENT UNDER JEFFERSON  
37 10 SAWBLADES  
38 NEW WORLD NAT.  
39 CASUAL AFFIRMATIVE  
40 NEIGHBOR OF MALI  
42 PRO'S FOE  
43 LODGE ENTRIES  
45 ATHLETE'S WRIST WRAP  
46 "ENGRENIN"  
47 NA NA  
49 BAD CLASSES  
51 BEST SCORE EVER  
54 MYTHICAL BIRD  
59 "THE TUB"  
60 QUICKLY, SHORTLY  
61 KILIMANJARO  
62 ATM AND VENDING  
63 ASTROLOGY'S BOY MACHINES  
64 DIETER'S UNIT  
DOWN  
1 CIRCLE OF LIGHT  
2 CIRCLE OF LIGHT  
3 GREEN ARMY UNIFORMS  
4 MEXICAN POET  
5 LINGUIST ITEM  
6 CLIVES  
7 STRONGER  
8 FIRST  
9 MOLCH  
10 OPERATE  
11 QUICKLY, SHORTLY  
12 CHYMERAS MOTHER  
13 ASTROLOGY'S BOY MACHINES  
14 DIETER'S UNIT  
21 G AND CHESNEY  
28 X ON A SUNDIAL  
27 BOA ARTHUR SITCOM  
28 ARTIST'S STAND  
35 LINCOLN OR FORT...  
36 SINGER'S INSTRUMENT?  
40 TANYA'S YARN KIPPUR  
43 TRANSMITS  
45 RESULTS  
47 CRITIC ROGER  
47 PROVIDES THE FOOD FOR  
48 GREEN ARMY UNIFORMS  
41 SMIDGE

## FAMILY: Merrill brothers competed at state wrestling

continued from B1

them wrestle," Dakota said.

D.J. qualified for the state tournament two years, but dislocated his shoulder finishing his senior season. Then came the third Merrill, Derek.

Derek qualified four times to the state tournament and finished third during his senior campaign.

Now Danner has the possibility of tying Derek's trips to state. Danner, only a freshman, said being the youngest of five wrestling brothers has helped him.

"It was tough growing up with them," Danner said. "But physically they have made me tougher and it helps me when I'm out on the mat, especially when things might not be in my favor."

And on paper, the state tournament seemed not to be in Danner's favor.

**Tourney draw**  
Danner's first round opponent was Kris Luzano. As a senior, Luzano compiled a 27-5 record, with one of those wins at the mercy of Danner.

Now Danner had to defeat Luzano to even have a chance at a championship.

"I knew this match would be tougher than the quarterfinals match," Danner said. "I guess I had to start somewhere. I just had to win."

So Danner and Luzano battled

for a chance to advance, and the referee raised Danner's hand after a 6-4 victory.

After cruising to a 14-6 major decision over Brandon Thaller, Danner squared off against No. 2 ranked Connor Hovis for the right to reach the championship round.

"D.J. told (Danner) that Luzano beat Hovis during the year," Jean said.

"But actually, D.J. lied."

Hovis and Danner wrestled even for the first three-and-a-half minutes, before eventual state champion, Hovis, handed Danner an 11-1 loss. Merrill eventually finished fifth after recording an 8-3 decision over Thaller.

"I don't know what happened with my match against Hovis," Danner said. "I was physically there, but not mentally prepared."

But as Danner still has plenty to see as a wrestler, his older brother, Dakota, has endured his fair share of wrestling experiences.

**Tough luck**  
As a junior this year, Dakota began the season ranked fifth in the state. After cruising through the season's first part, an all-too-familiar feeling happened.

Luzano to even have a chance at a championship.

"It was another elbow injury," Dakota said. "It was another elbow hit by the wrestling bug, but the injury bug also. During his freshman year, Dakota experienced a strained hip, flexor two days before districts.

While ranked third in the state

as a sophomore, Dakota suffered his first elbow injury. This time it was weeks before districts.

But Dakota managed to wrestle at districts and pinned his first opponent before bowing out because of an injury default.

"I was devastated," Dakota said. "That was the worst. People were saying I could go to the finals, and then I got injured again."

Then came this year. Another elbow injury sidelined the junior, but after rehabbing most of the season, Dakota registered three pins and a technical fall at districts to make his first state tournament appearance.

"This year devastated me again," Dakota said. "In the back of my head, I'm thinking about it, I'm thinking about it, I'm trying to be careful during the match. I just try to go on."

Dakota also faced a tough first round opponent in senior Tyler Shoemaker.

The senior compiled a 25-6 record, compared to Dakota's 14-6 mark.

The 140-pound senior came out on top 8-4, sending Dakota into a wrestling loss situation.

"It's scary," Dakota said about wrestling back. "You know it's over if you lose and you want to just leave it out there."

Dakota outlasted Dallas Gooseman 11-3, before exiting the tournament on the second day against Nick Grossman.

Despite the injuries, Dakota plans on reaching the state tournament during his senior season.

"I think what keeps me going is the thrill I get when the referee raises my hand," Dakota said. "This is an individual sport. If you mess up, it's your fault. If you win, you did it."

Danner and Dakota have added to the Spoofhound wrestling legacy while becoming the third and fourth Merrill boys to wrestle in the state tournament.

But Maryville head coach Joe Drake said siblings in wrestling aren't out of the ordinary.

"In wrestling, I would say this

is the norm," Drake said about family ties. "Once brothers get started, everyone in the family seems to join in."

Drake said he has coached over a dozen siblings during his coaching career.

"It's really special when you have brothers competing at the same time," Drake said. "When families start wrestling, it sets standards and they may try to out do their other brothers."

Danner and Dakota don't concentrate on outdoing each other, but they want to leave a lasting legacy.

"I'll be the last to wrestle, so I continue to strive to be the best,"

"I think what keeps me going is the thrill I get when the referee raises my hand,"

Dakota Merrill, junior wrestler

Danner said. "I want to make it so people remember our name."

However, it remains clear which Merrill stands on the basement's winner's podium.

"D.J. or Derek win when we wrestle," Danner said. "We give up a lot of weight to those two."

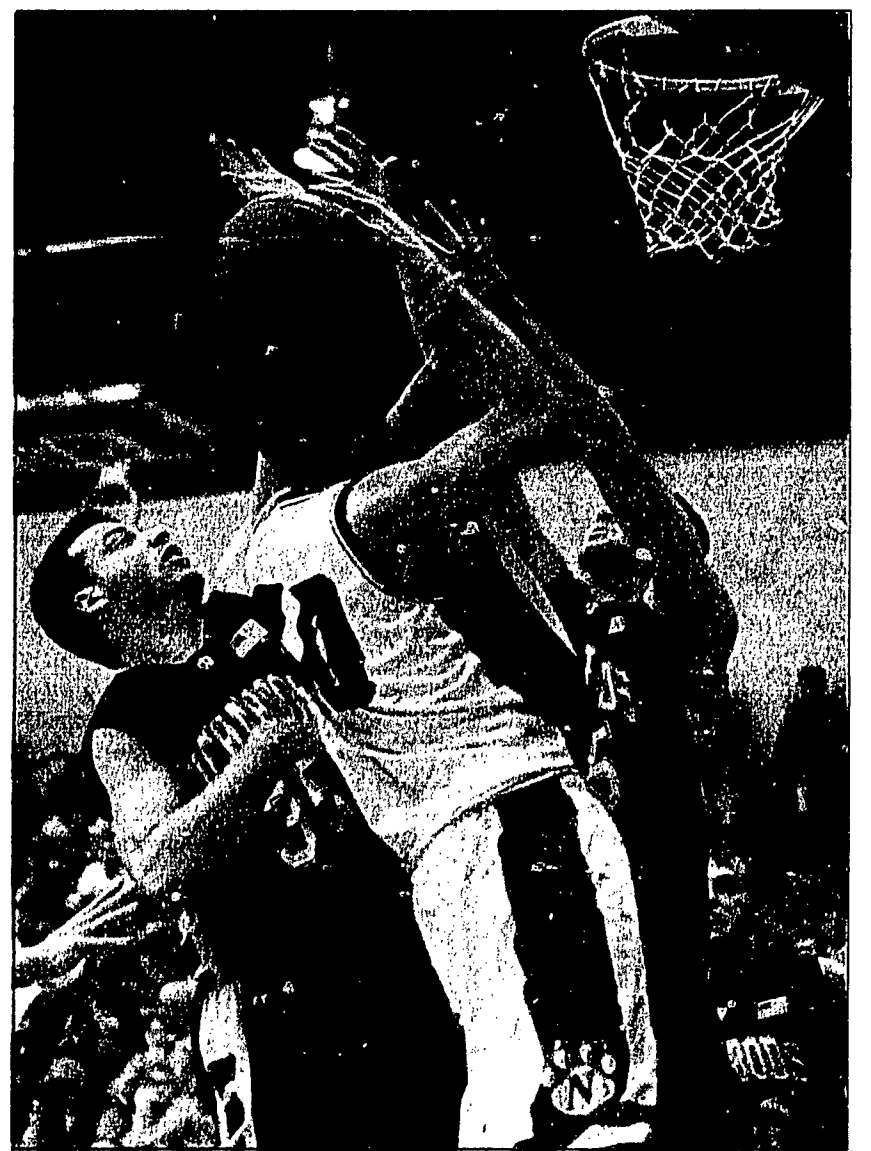
Derek and D.J. are both much older, while former Marine, David, is too big to mix it up with the rest of the family.

Danner and Dakota expect a return ticket to Mizzou Arena next year, but the real wrestling action between these two can only be seen on those unfamiliar mats.

"It tempests flare, then it's on," Jean said.

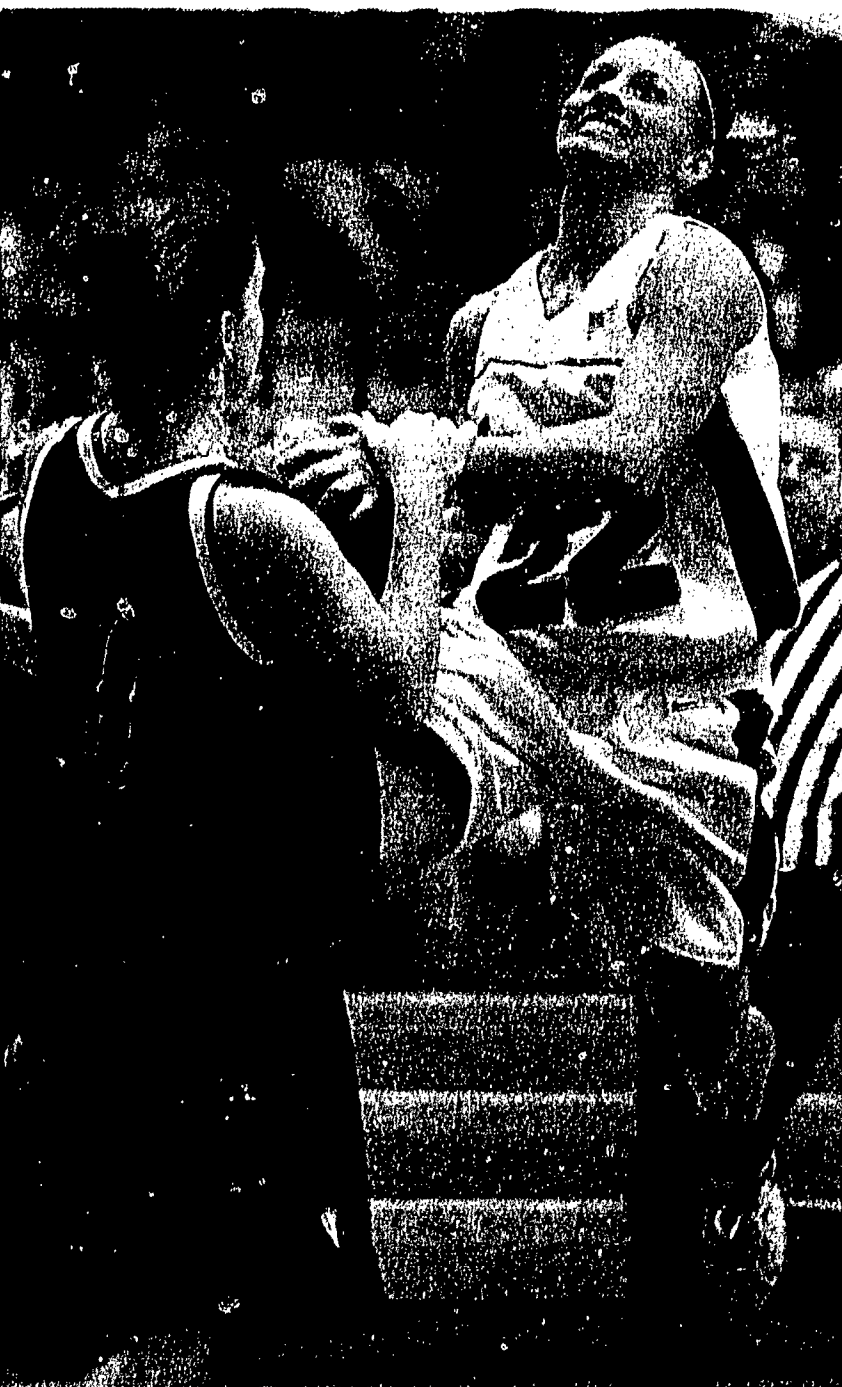
Those tempers have apparently escalated into bloody encounters.





photos by mike dye | photography editor

(left) NORTHWEST GUARD Andy Peterson makes a move to get by Missouri Southern forward Deonte Cox during Saturday afternoon's game held at Bearcat Arena. The Bearcats beat the Lions 75-60. (top right) NORTHWEST FORWARD Mandi Schumacher scrambles for the ball against a Missouri Southern defender in Saturday afternoon's game. Schumacher had a total of 12 points in the win against Missouri Southern. (above) NORTHWEST FORWARD Hunter Henry attempts a lay-up against two Missouri Southern defenders in Saturday afternoon's game held in Bearcat Arena. The Bearcats won 75-60. photo by Mike Dye



NORTHWEST GUARD Kelli Nelson gets fouled by Washburn's Jessica Aebi in Wednesday night's game held in Bearcat Arena. Despite Nelson's best efforts, the Bearcats lost to the Lady Blues 86-73.

photo by mike dye | photography editor

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